

BLESS YOUR OF GAS COMPANY

Must Make Out Millions of Bills to Repay Overcharge on Gas.

WILL REFUND \$11,000,000

Supreme Court Decision on 80-Cent Rate Puts Most Stupendous Task on New York Consolidated.

Many Complications.

BY LLOYD F. LONERGAN.
NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—The gas trust officials, because of the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, find themselves confronted with the pleasing task of making out 25,000,000 bills. This work is absolutely necessary before the 20 per cent rebate can be returned to consumers.

In May, 1908, the state law fixing the price of gas in Greater New York at 89 cents per thousand was in effect. The Consolidated and its subsidiary companies promptly secured a court injunction, the effect of which was that the full one dollar rate was charged, until the constitutional question of the new act could be passed upon. The difference between the two rates, 20 cents per thousand, was deposited with Special Master Shields, and has now reached over \$11,000,000.

The findings of the United States Supreme Court make it necessary that this money be distributed, and it involves the most stupendous clerical task ever imposed upon a public service corporation. The Consolidated and the companies allied with it supply approximately 800,000 consumers, and each one is entitled to a 20 per cent rebate on each bill for 12 months. This means that 25,000,000 gas bills must be gone over, and the amount due consumers carefully figured out. It would be a wonderful lot of work, even if every customer had his receipts bills ready to turn in at the window.

Must Figure Out Rebates.
But accountants who have studied the subject are of the opinion that not more than 500,000 consumers will be in a position to collect their full due without deductions or corrections, and that of the remaining 400,000, two-thirds will force the gas company into the performance of extra clerical labor almost equal in volume to the figuring out of the 25,000,000 undeposited bills.

New York state has an official known as the "inspector of gas meters." Any household meter which is charged for more gas than he uses can complain to this official, and if it is found that his meter is fast, he is entitled, under the law, to a rebate. The gas company must make refund for fast meters.

Now here is the problem for the class in higher mathematics.
Mr. Blank's bills for the 12 months are \$320. He is entitled to a 20 per cent rebate, or \$64. But during that time it was found that his meter ran fast, and the company allowed a deduction for \$120 a month for seven months, or \$840. This \$120 is figured under the \$1 rate. Under the 80-cent rate Mr. Blank was only entitled to \$96. He is entitled to a rebate of \$24, which must be deducted from his \$84 rebate.

How would you like to solve this problem a few hundred thousand times?

Among small consumers there are many instances where the period of complaint is three months or less, and the "fast meter rebate" is charged for the entire year. The gas company will be required to make accounts balance as where thousands of dollars are involved.

Bankrupts Make Much Work.
Also there are hundreds of cases where firms have dissolved or have gone into bankruptcy after paying the dollar rate up to the time of the decision. It is necessary for the gas company, in order to avoid litigation, to make its own calculation as to the amount due each member of the corporation. If the dissolution was made with the proviso that assets and liabilities should be equally divided, if the partition is on some other basis, the company will be required to figure it out, and what the division is directed.

Directly what the company is to do with cash belonging to bankrupts is a question that is giving rise to many a sleepless night. Undoubtedly this money should be turned over to the receivers who have the assets in charge. Failure to do so might be construed as a contempt of court. But how can the gas company tell who are and who are not bankrupt? It has finally decided that it is up to the receivers to notify it, and that, failing such notice, it will pay the money out direct.

Ever since the law was upheld the gas companies have been swarmed by representatives of judgment creditors anxious to attach the rebate that is coming to John Doe or Richard Roe. When it is figured that the average bill dweller pays \$4 a month for gas (generally more) it can be seen that he has at least \$25 coming to him, and many a tailor, grocer or butcher will gladly accept.

Claims Bought by Speculators.
Tens of thousands of bills are in the hands of speculators who bought them at a discount, when the probability of the Legislature's being sustained appeared to be remote. To avoid making the same refund twice, the company will be obliged to make a separate scrutiny of this entire mass and trace back to the first payment under the dollar-rate following the action of the Legislature.

If a speculator presents bills to the amount of \$500 and demands a return of \$100 the consumer from whom he bought the claims will be notified and the company will demand proof that the bills are in the hands of a person who has obtained them legitimately before it will consent to make the payment.

New Yorkers move more frequently than do people of other cities. Some have had three or four addresses during the past 12 months, many have moved to distant sections. All of these people will be located in one bill, and it is naturally bound to be a tedious piece of work.

Then take the case of householders who have died since the 80-cent law was on the statute books. Presumably the gas company will pay the refund to the widow. If there is a widow, but first it will be necessary to establish that the man died, that he left an heir and that the person applying for the money is the one legally entitled to it. And this same procedure will be necessary whether the amount due be large or small.

Write 40,000,000 Bills.
It is estimated conservatively that with all these complications, which will be largely increased, will make out and handle what will be equivalent to 40,000,000 bills before the final settlement is made, and this in addition to

the regular routine of preparing new bills at the new rate of 80 cents a thousand.

A new source of worry for the gas company has been caused by the announced decision of a consumer to sue for interest on his withheld rebate. This consumer's argument sounds logical. Ever since May 1, 1908, he has been forced by the action of the gas company to pay 20 cents a thousand more than he should for gas. If he had placed that money in a savings bank he would have received 4 per cent interest without any trouble. Hence, why should the gas company deprive him of his interest?

This suit will be fought bitterly by the trust, not only because of the amount involved, in round figures about \$250,000, but because of the clerical labor involved.

Interest Involves Work.
Take a simple case of a man whose gas bills were exactly \$5 a month for each and every one of the 24 months. Here is what would happen if interest is also allowed by the court. Some unhappy clerk would be compelled to figure thus:
"His rebate is \$1 each month, and he is entitled to interest on \$1 at 4 per cent for 24 months, on another \$1 at 4 per cent for 23 months, etc."
And this problem, with varying figures as rebates, would have to be worked out at least 800,000 times.

Do you think that stock of the Consolidated Gas Company is not what it used to be? And that the clerks and accountants of the trust are very unhappy men these days?

JOIN IN BRANDING RAINEY'S CHARGES

Taft, Ward and Cromwell Send Letters, Denying Interest in Panama Deal.

WARD ALONE RESPONSIBLE

Rainey Reads Letters in House and Says They Deny What He Did Not Charge and World Did Not Inspire Him.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—As soon as he could get the floor today, Rainey, of Illinois, read to the House the telegram which he received from C. P. Taft yesterday in which the brother of the President-elect denied that he has ever had any business association with William Nelson Cromwell or any interest at any time in the Isthmus of Panama. In the message, he asked Rainey to retract his statements regarding Mr. Taft, which he made in his speech on Tuesday. "The country will be glad to know that Mr. Taft's name is being used there without his consent," he said. Following is the text of Mr. Taft's telegram: "Sheer, Absolute Falsehoods." "Havana, Jan. 27, 1909.—I assume you have been misled into uttering the sheer and absolute falsehoods concerning me you are reported to have spoken. I have never had any business association of any kind or description, past, present or prospective, with William Nelson Cromwell nor any interest of any kind or with anybody, present, past or prospective, on the Isthmus of Panama, and I confidently rely upon your loyalty to the truth to retract what you said about me in the same high place where you made yourself responsible for those misstatements." Ward Clears Cromwell. Rainey had also read a letter printed in the newspapers from Randolph G. Ward, of New York, relieving Mr. Cromwell of the responsibility for the attempt to obtain the much criticized railroad franchise in Panama. Rainey also had the clerk to read the report of an interview with the secretary of W. S. Harvey, of New York, mentioned in connection with railroad and timber grants in Panama. "The trouble with all these gentlemen is that they take particular pains to deny things I do not say," said Rainey. Cromwell Also Denies. Lovering, of Massachusetts, read a letter from William Nelson Cromwell, in which he said that, except for the block of stock in the Electric Light Company of Panama, he never had and had not now any interest, direct or indirect, in any part of the Republic of Panama. Lovering added that every one knew that Rainey "had been filled up with material from a well-known source." Rainey was on his feet in an instant, demanding what this source was. "The New York World," responded Lovering. Rainey denied this statement.

LAYS BLAME ON TURKEY

BULGARIA SAYS HER ATTITUDE IS IRRECONCILABLE.

Sends Note to Powers Warning That Porte Is Responsible if Negotiations Fail.

SOPIA, Jan. 29.—The Bulgarian government tonight delivered a note to the representatives of the powers complaining of the irreconcilable and uncompromising attitude of Turkey and declaring that the Porte must be responsible for the consequences. The note does not solicit the intervention of the powers, but draws their attention to the tension of the situation.

NEW CLOUD OVER BALKANS

Powers Unite to Keep Turkey and Bulgaria From War.

LONDON, Jan. 29.—The Balkan situation is causing anxiety again in European capitals. Fearing trouble between Turkey and Bulgaria as a result of Bulgaria calling out her reserves, the powers are bringing pressure for a peaceful settlement. Sir Edward Grey has secured the powers on the subject, and it is said Austria has proposed that common representation be made both to Sofia and Constantinople against any change in the frontier which would endanger European peace. Great Britain has advised Turkey to accept an indemnity of \$20,000,000. Bulgaria is inclined to pay this, provided Turkey abandons her claim for rectification of the frontier.

WARNED TO AVOID FIGHTING

Britain Urges Peace—Bulgarian Note Contains Threat.

LONDON, Jan. 29.—The British representatives at Constantinople and Sofia have been instructed to warn Turkey and Bulgaria of the danger of military action on the frontier and to urge a peaceful arrangement of their disputes. According to special dispatches received here from Sofia, the Bulgarian note to the powers declares that unless the Porte promptly recognizes Bulgaria's independence, she will consider herself engaged in the struggle, and she voluntarily has undertaken to negotiate with the Porte on the basis of pecuniary compensation.

THINK SALARIES ENOUGH

Increase for "Social Expense" Not Certain for Federal Officials.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—There is still considerable doubt whether Congress will ultimately approve of the increase in salaries of the President, Vice-President, Speaker of the House and Federal Judges, notwithstanding the recent vote of the Senate. The raises were authorized in amendments to the legislative bill reported by the Senate committee on appropriations, after the appropriation bill had passed the House. The bill having passed the Senate, and been sent back to the House, must still be adjusted in conference committee. The report of the conference committee must be accepted by both Senate and House before the bill goes to the President for signature. The House has a very strong and unrecurrent opposition to the various increases on the part of House members, particularly to the increase in salaries. The speaker since it has been shown that the speaker necessarily for larger salaries is to enable the various officials to entertain socially on a more liberal scale than heretofore. President Roosevelt, for instance, has said that he has just come out even on the salary of \$20,000. Therefore, it will be argued, there is no good reason for increasing the Presidential salary. Experience has shown that Vice-President Sherman, during his long Congressional career, has almost entirely shunned society, and certainly he will not undertake to entertain as has Vice-President Fairbanks, who paid many of his social expenses out of his own pocket. Speaker Cannon cares naught for society; he alone he never asked for an increase, and the probabilities are that he would vote against it should the House divide evenly.

CHINESE DIPLOMAT RETURNS TO CHINA.

PRINCE TSAI FU, SON OF PRINCE CHING.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—(Special.)—Prince Tsai Fu has just sailed for England on his way back to China. Though he came not as the special envoy of China, but as a companion to Tang Shao Yi, who was the accredited representative of his government, the report of the Prince is likely to have more influence in determining the future of the relations between China and the United States than the report of Tang. For Tang is a protégé of the discredited Yuan Shi Kai, while Tsai is a son of Prince Ching.

SEA GIVES UP ITS DEAD

Bones Believed to Be Those of Suicide Found in Coos Bay.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Jan. 29.—(Special.)—Parts of a human skull were brought up yesterday from the channel of Coos Bay by the Government dredger. With it were bits of clothing and a rope with a rope attached, which indicated that it might have been the remains of a suicide years ago. Dr. E. Minogue, ex-Coroner, says there is a doubt the bones are those of a human. **No More Jurors in Cooper Trial.** NASHVILLE, Jan. 29.—In the Cooper trial the examination of the second panel of jurors began today. Twenty men were called before one J. Stringer today. This man was W. J. Stringer, a fellow aged farmer. The state challenged him peremptorily.

HOPE FOR NEGROES

Aldrich Wants Appointment of New Brownsville Board.

SENATE WILL ACCEPT BILL

Measure Provides That Board Is to Report on Qualifications of Officers and Men for Re-enlistment.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—A plan for harmonizing the views of Republican Senators who have been at variance on the re-enlistment of negro soldiers of the Twenty-Fifth Regiment, discharged on account of the Brownsville affair, was laid before the Senate today by Aldrich and accepted by advocates of other similar measures. Southern Democratic members who generally oppose all legislation on the question, announce their opposition to the new bill, and with Cullerton and McClain, as their spokesmen, refused to agree to a vote on it at any definite time. The compromise measure authorizes the Secretary of War to appoint a court of inquiry to consist of five officers of the United States Army now below the rank of Colonel, which shall be empowered to hear and report upon all charges and testimony relating to the affair at Brownsville. The court is directed within one year from its appointment to make a final report, and from time to time partial reports as to non-commissioned officers and men of companies C, B and D, who are found qualified for re-enlistment. It provides that the "enlistments shall be considered as having been made immediately after the discharge of the men, who are to be entitled to pay from the date of their discharge."

SAYS MONOPOLY FAVORED

Arizona Legislature Protests Against Roosevelt Dam Power Deal.

EL PASO, Tex., Jan. 29.—A special to the Times from Phoenix, Ariz., says: Assemblyman De Sousa today introduced in the Legislature a memorial to the President and Congress, demanding an investigation of the contract entered into by the Secretary of the Interior with the Pacific Gas & Electric Company, which gives that corporation a 10-year monopoly of the power generated at Roosevelt Dam, 50,000-horse power. The resolution practically charges the Government with violating the very act under which big corporations have been prosecuted by the Government for creating monopolies. The resolution passed the House unanimously and the Senate by a strict party vote.

HOLLAND TELLS WANTS

Sends Venezuela a List of Demands for Settlement.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 29.—A special from The Hague says that the Dutch demands on Venezuela include a consular convention, assuring the appointment of Venezuelan Consuls in the Dutch West Indies, freedom of entry at Venezuelan ports for all Dutch vessels; the abolition of the 3 per cent extra shipping dues and fishing rights for Dutch vessels in Venezuelan waters.

LESS WORK FOR CLAIM COURT

Senate Would Repeal Law Sending Civil War Matters to It.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The law permitting either house of Congress to refer Civil War claims to the court of claims for adjudication will be repealed if an amendment to the omnibus claims bill adopted today by the Senate becomes a law. The amendment provides that such reference may be made until January 1, 1910, and Senator Fulton, in charge of the measure, announced that it was the purpose of the committee on claims to refer probably 2000 claims on the committee's files to the court.

FULTON BILL STRIKES SNAG

House Refuses to Consider Any Railroad Measures This Session.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The House committee on interstate commerce today decided to report no general railroad legislation this session. This means that Senator Fulton's bill to prohibit an advance of freight rates, except with the consent of the

GRAND OPENING—SOUVENIR DAY

A Big Display of Flowers & Palms

THE HARVARD PAINLESS DENTISTS

from the East, will open their branch office over Royal Bakery, corner Park and Washington Sts., on Saturday, all day and evening, Jan. 30, 1909

These offices are being equipped with the latest and most modern appliances and ingredients for doing painless high-class operations of the mouth at very low prices, consistent with other first-class Dentists.

We invite every man, woman and child to visit our elegantly equipped offices and have their teeth examined free by our expert in charge.

You will find no young, untried Operator in this office, but instead, the well-directed interests of a Master of the Dental Art.

The dread of pain has kept thousands away from the Dentists' office week after week and month after month, until the whole system has suffered irreparably in consequence.

Therefore, do not delay. Come in on the Opening Day and receive a souvenir, and become familiar with our system of Painless Dentistry.

Those who cannot have their teeth fixed and pay cash may have them fixed on the installment plan, by paying whatever they can each month.

If you are nervous and fear the Dental Chair, do not hesitate to call upon us, when we will satisfy you, beyond a doubt, of our ability to do just as we say.

Twenty offices in the United States. Two ladies in attendance. Do not forget the opening day. All come.

HARVARD PAINLESS DENTISTS

OVER ROYAL BAKERY CORNER WASHINGTON AND PARK STS.

MEXICO ACCEPTS INVITATION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Gifford Pinchot, Chief United States Forester, who returned tonight from Mexico, where he delegates to this country to attend the Conservation Congress, presented to the President tonight the letter from the Mexican executive, accepting the invitation.

TABLE FOR ANDROMEDA BILL.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Bills granting American registry to the Andromeda, wrecked on the California coast, have been laid on the table by the House committee on merchant marine.

CONGRESS BLOCKS HOLIDAY.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The plan to make Lincoln's centennial on February 12 a special holiday was blocked today by a committee of the Senate and House.

TRUCK HITS CAR; TWO HURT

TACOMA Fireman Fatally Injured and Driver Bruised.

TACOMA, Jan. 29.—In a crash between a streetcar and a fire truck at 5 o'clock tonight, Dan Noonan, a relief truckman, was fatally injured, and J. W. Taylor, driver of the truck, painfully injured. The fire wagon was answering an alarm in the East End of the city, and was approaching Pacific avenue, eastward, down the Twenty-first-street hill, when the collision occurred. The horses and front wheels had cleared, but the car fender struck the rear wheels of the truck, toppling it over on the pavement. Noonan has a compound fracture of the skull, and is internally injured. His son, John, was killed in the Minneapolis (Minn.) fire department, seven years ago. Noonan only a few months ago saved the life of the fireman he was tonight relieving. New York City has consumed 14,000,000 tons of coal in the last 12 months.

LABOR COUNCIL ELECTS

Goes on Record as Opposed to Charter Emergency Clause.

At the semi-annual meeting last night of the Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: President, Carl Canfield; vice-president, August Madson; recording and corresponding secretary, W. H. Fitzgerald; financial secretary, N. H. Robinson; reading clerk, L. E. Gottschall; sergeant-at-arms, F. T. Fort; conductor, C. Oeking. The representatives from the various sections were larger than at any time since the formation of the Council. The Council went on record as opposed to the adoption of the emergency clause in the city charter, on the ground that it impairs the initiative and referendum and takes authority from the people. Stephenson Again Fails to Win. MADISON, Wis., Jan. 29.—Isaac Stephenson again failed of election today. He received 61 of the 131 votes cast.

MISERY FROM AN UPSET STOMACH AND INDIGESTION WILL BE ENDED

Almost Instant Relief is Waiting for Oregonian Readers Who Suffer From Stomach Trouble.

If what you just ate is souring on your stomach or lies like a lump of lead, refusing to digest, or you belch gas and Eructate sour undigested food or have a feeling of Dizziness, Heartburn, Fullness, Nausea, Bad taste in mouth and Stomach headache—this is Indigestion.

A full case of Pape's Diapepsin costs only 50 cents and will thoroughly cure the worst case of Dyspepsia, and leave sufficient about the house in case some one else in the family may suffer from Stomach trouble or Indigestion.

Ask your pharmacist to show you the formula plainly printed on these 50-cent cases, then you will understand why Dyspeptic trouble of all kinds must go, and why they usually relieve your stomach or Indigestion in five minutes. Get a case now and eat one Triangule after your next meal. They are harmless and taste like candy. Each contains power sufficient to digest and prepare for assimilation into the blood all the food you eat; besides, it makes you go to the table with a hearty, healthy appetite; but what will please you most is that you will feel that your Stomach and intestines are clean and fresh, and you will not need to resort to laxatives or liver pills for Bilitousness or Constipation.

This city will have many Diapepsin cranks, as some people will call them, but you will be cranky about this splendid stomach prescription, too, if you ever have Indigestion or Gastritis or any other Stomach misery, and eat just one Triangule of Diapepsin.



CHINESE DIPLOMAT RETURNS TO CHINA. PRINCE TSAI FU, SON OF PRINCE CHING.