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PORTLAND, MONDAY, MAY 31, 1909.

THE KELLAHER PROPOSAL.

Experience has made it axiomatic, it has passed into the currency of a proverb, that no industrial enterprise can be carried on so successfully by public authority as by private undertaking. Under public authority, there is loss of efficiency on the one hand, and increase of cost on the other. Nobody doubts, indeed, that if the public commits itself to any large industrial undertaking, it may drive private individuals out of the business; for the public undertaking is supported by power of taxing the whole, with which no one of the separate parts can compete. But success claimed on this basis is not success at all. It is merely abuse of the power of taxation.

The postoffice, so often cited as an example of the success of public undertakings, differs not from others or the rest; for the postoffice is continually in arrear. But this institution, together with the public school, are exceptions which are willingly made, because their nature is wholly different from that of productive industrial enterprise, and the country submits to the taxation for the resulting general good, for which all property and all industry are willing to pay. Again, these institutions are for the universal advantage, on equal terms to all. Moreover, they are not founded on strenuous labor; they are for distribution, not production. The nearest approach to success in the supply by public authority of any indispensable article is in public water works; for this is a very simple business compared with most others necessary for supply of a general want. Lay down the pipes and the water delivers itself. It is no complicated business, requiring many processes, highly technical knowledge and great numbers of employes—like the supply of light, from generation and distribution either of electricity or gas.

Herein lies the general reason why The Oregonian opposes the Kellaher plan of incurring a bonded debt of $2,000,000 and starting the city upon the construction of a municipal light plant. From the beginning there is certainty that illumination of the city, to an equal extent, or for the same amount of light as it can buy for a given sum, will cost the city much more than now. It is a business of technical detail throughout, requiring highest skill. Any obtainable water power will be only as good as its minimum, which it will be necessary to reinforce with steam plants. To enter the city in the business is a further great step towards placing the city under the control of the general multitude of its employes, with increasing opportunity to political and labor leaders. In no other branch of applied industrial science are deterioration and depreciation so rapid as in electrical machinery and its operation. Undoubtedly the City of Portland could operate electric plants and gas plants, too, and make up deficits by taxation. But would such policy be desirable? It is something for all householders, all owners of property, all tenants, all renters, all wage-workers to think of; for each and all may be assured that they will be forced in one way or another to make their contribution to payment of waste, deficit and loss. There is no magic in these industrial undertakings, carried on by public authority and at public expense, to avert losses, under the supposition that what is paid for out of the public funds costs nothing or little. On the contrary, the cost is always more.

But Mr. Kellaher figures it out. He knows nothing of the business himself, but has a prompter and expert in a Mr. Vaughan, from Michigan, who, we fear, would prove on inquiry to be as elusive as the mysterious Mr. Raffles, of temporary fame in many cities. One thing, however, would tend to show that there may be such person, since somebody evidently has been assisting Mr. Kellaher in compositions of the fairy tale or tales of the Colonel Sellers variety, in a style of which he hitherto had shown but slenderest capacity, or none at all. The easy flow of these tales from a typewriting machine indicates a financial confidence that makes us wonder why this knowledge has not been turned to successful account sooner; but then we suppose that Mr. Kellaher has but recently discovered Mr. Vaughan.

We deny not that men who invent their facts, or are permitted to construe facts to suit their theories or desires, have great advantages. But they are not safe guides. We have a lot of stuff about the mighty success of municipal electric plants in Seattle and other cities; and all in bright array, figures from Seattle are paraded to prove the financial success of the undertaking there. Yet what the taxpayer and consumer knows is that he is continually putting up more and more money; and no manipulation of figures by actuaries to "square the account" can relieve the monotony of the performance. So it will be here, if we make a start in this business. We shall pay more money than now for the same quantity of light. Year by year, we shall want more light, of course; and then the higher cost of it will increase in proportion to the production—for in this matter the city will be helpless in the hands of the men who do its business—including those who work the political wires and currents of the system. The ordinary business of a city is conducted always in an exceedingly wasteful manner but it is borne under our system in the name of "the rule of the people." But here is a business of another sort. It is a great industry, not politics, yet is to be subjected to the schemes of political and labor organizations.

Under pretense of reduction of cost and of need of increasing the supply of public light, the present cost is to be increased threefold. But this only for a beginning. The extravagance will increase, as it always does in such conditions, under public control, which troubles itself little with questions of financial economy. As to present rates, it is certain they are no higher than in cities similarly situated; and if they are or shall be high enough to invite competitive capital, we may be sure it will be forthcoming. Nobody is likely to maintain a monopoly of a large money-making business very long. In these cases, however, it is the fashion of adventurers and demagogues, wherever allowed a chance, to commit municipalities to the expenditure of vast sums of money under promise of promotion of the public welfare—for that is a leading trick of their trade. To the present light companies, electric or gas, The Oregonian is under no kind of favor or obligation. It uses both kinds largely, and pays in cash for all it takes. If there is the mighty discrimination anywhere between consumers as that told by the Kellaher tales, it doesn't know it, but is of the opinion that the tales do not at all belong to the question whether the city shall plunge into this business and take the burden of the consequences. To do so will be only to increase the cost of the light that must be paid for out of the public funds, and it is no more its duty to supply light than to supply fuel for private consumption. Against discrimination by a public-service corporation, the private customer has his remedy. But first inquiry should be whether these stories are apocryphal, and how far. In any case, however, they do not belong to the discussion whether the city should undertake this business or not.

There is said to be not only a fuel trust, but a milk trust, and many more. What new apostles of the Kellaher type will put the city into these lines of business, for protection of the private consumer? And "bust" even Smith, the meat trust-buster, out of the business?

FOR MAYOR OF PORTLAND.

Meantime it remains that a majority of the people of Portland think that Joseph Simon, for ability, for knowledge of municipal affairs, and for efficiency in administration, is the superior candidate for Mayor of Portland. The time calls for a man of practical judgment in affairs like these.

No use to object that Mr. Simon once was a politician, on the basis or conditions that existed in the former time. Of course he was. Every man worth anything works in the times he lives in, according to the conditions in which he finds himself. Joseph Simon did just that thing. That proved his ability and capacity. So now he is able to work in the conditions of the present time.

Every argument, therefore, attempted against him, on the political conditions of the past time, is an argument in his favor at this time and for this time.

This is realized and fully understood by the general public. It is the source of his strength as a candidate for the Mayoralty. The people are not so narrow as Bourbonism supposes them. Judgment of Joseph Simon proceeds on knowledge of the man, based on the conditions of today. He is the candidate of his party by result of the fairest and fullest primary election ever held in the City of Portland; and because of his recognized fitness for the time and place he will be supported by many not of his own political party.

The Oregonian doesn't press the party or partisan argument. That may stand for what it is worth with those who would like to see the rehabilitation of the Republican party, on a rational basis, in the city and state. It is to the local situation that The Oregonian now addresses itself. Municipal administration, under reasonable and efficient policy, demands the election of Joseph Simon. And that is the reason why he will be elected.

SECRETARY WILSON PILLORIED.

The successful close of Mr. Patten's famous May wheat deal leaves Secretary Wilson in an unenviable position. Not only were his farmer friends duped into selling wheat at bearish prices by Mr. Wilson's false figures, but millers and bakers, with implicit faith in the Government figures, permitted stocks to run low and must now replenish at famine prices. Mr. Patten, by checking the export movement of wheat from this country, undoubtedly prevented the necessity of importing wheat before the new crop would be available. If there was at any time evidence disproving the existence of a corner, it was certainly supplied on the final day of the May option. With the opening price of $1.34 per bushel, which was 9 cents higher than Mr. Patten predicted it would go, and 15 cents per bushel higher than it went after the appearance of Secretary Wilson's March report, Chicago advices state that "Mr. Patten's brokers stood ready all morning to sell to any one who wanted to buy at the quoted price, and they also stood ready to buy from anyone who wanted to sell at that price."

In this quiet, natural, unostentatious manner Mr. Patten closed up a deal which was made immensely profitable solely by his business sagacity and knowledge of actually existing conditions. And yet none of the strictly reliable information which enabled Mr. Patten to begin buying wheat long before others who actually needed it were in the market was inaccessible to the Government. The taxpayers of the country, who have suffered by the mistakes of the Department of Agriculture, pay vast sums of money which are supposed to be disbursed for the purpose of securing accurate information. No good reason can be offered why the special reports secured by a Chicago wheat operator should be so much more accurate than those of the Government have ever been.

The complete exposure of the worthlessness of the Government reports this time takes in all of the country, but it is doubtful if there is any other part of the United States where these reports have been quite so worthless as in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Not only is the crop of the three states ridiculously overestimated year after year, but, even when its accurate proportions are revealed late in the season, no attempt is made to correct the error. When Secretary Wilson reported 9,000,000 bushels of wheat in farmers' hands in Oregon, Washington and Idaho on March 1, every man in the slightest degree familiar with conditions in the three states knew to a certainty that the figures were too high by about 7,000,000 bushels.

Having lost all confidence in the Government reports so far as our own immediate locality is considered, it is, of course, natural that we should discredit them elsewhere, and, as the results show, they are of but little more value in other parts of the country than they are in the Pacific Northwest. Unless the service shall be improved, it should be abolished as a needless waste of money, which does more harm than good.

THE COST OF LIVING.

It's mighty easy to explain why the cost of living is high. No mystery at all about it. Staple articles for the household, especially of food, are scarce. Men and women and boys and girls don't like to work on the farm. They are averse to the labor, or kind of labor, necessary for production of wheat and potatoes, cabbage and beans; the care of kine, attention to calves, lambs and poultry; protection of fruit trees and selection and preparation of the product for market. They prefer to live in the towns and cities—all who possibly can—even on small salaries, and to complain that flour, beef and mutton, butter, eggs and potatoes, are outrageously high.

From this basis all prices are forced upwards. Household furniture, for example, bears much higher prices than a few years ago. Lumber, wood and brick are higher. Wages of all workmen have advanced—though not in all occupations to the proportion of the advance in articles of food. Wages in the lighter employments, indoors, are perhaps but little higher. The heavier part of the burden of higher prices seems to fall on these. But these people still don't want to live in the country and grow wheat, potatoes, pigs and sheep, or work in the orchard or logging camp.

Again, the dwellers in the towns and cities, where complaint is made of high prices, must have better houses, better and greater variety of food, better clothes and better furniture. Quite right all this, too; but it is incompatible with the lower cost of living that prevailed in the former time. Social expenses, too, continually grow and increase. Travel is more extensive and more general. Rents are higher, because better houses are required; and taxes are higher, because public expenditure always keeps well in the lead of all other growth and progress. Formerly we spent in Portland little on streets, nothing on bridges, and had only cheap schoolhouses and no parks. But we are "going some" now. Rents in Portland, except for a very few corners, pay but moderate returns; in many cases not more than taxes and other necessary charges. Building indeed is active, but rents can go no lower. Demands on property are so great that the tendency rather is upward.

But food prices will decline in proportion as food production increases; and it is the only way. Moreover, food production will increase only as greater proportions of our people turn their faces toward the country and cultivate the soil. It is useless, however, to employ exhortation on such a subject; for the tendency of population is continually to the towns and cities—making relatively fewer producers and more consumers. Upon an endless list of articles of food consumed in our Western cities we pay not only the price in Iowa and Missouri, but the freight charge and the profits of a whole line of dealers. No mystery about these prices, nor about the prices of all the various articles of manufacture from distant places, including even large part of our building materials and nearly all our clothing. Yet after all, many think we are more generally prosperous with high than with low prices; and there's an argument on their side.

THE PROPOSED "EXCISE BOARD."

Neither the Municipal Association nor the Taxpayers' League is a very powerful body. For the one does not include all persons in Portland interested in municipal affairs, nor the other all the taxpayers of the city. But these persons have a right to attempt to make up in pretensions what they lack in numbers.

Some of the few members of the Municipal Association appeal to the electors for enactment of the proposed ordinance for creation of an excise board and regulation through it of the liquor trade of the city. On the other hand, the Taxpayers' League recommends its rejection. The Oregonian's opinion is in accord with that of the Taxpayers' League, which, after first opposing the so-called Gothenburg plan, proceeds:

> The Excise Board amendment to regulate the liquor traffic is also a radical departure, but in the other direction, and would, if enforced, strike disastrously at clubs, hotels and other business enterprises. From even the standpoint of the Prohibitionist, it would seem inadvisable to abandon the present most effective battlefield of local option for such radical and untried measures that even if maintained for a time, could only result in a final and disastrous reaction. Vote no.

Yesterday The Oregonian printed the proposition entire. In many particulars it is unreasonably restrictive. It would embarrass restaurants and hotels—those of highest character with the rest. It would permit no chair, seat or table in a saloon, and, by consequence, no reading matter. It would forbid the wholesale dealer or brewer to sell except to those who hold license to sell, and thereby would cut off family or private trade. It would invite informers to make complaint against persons supposed to have liquors at home, on allegation that such liquors might be sold, and thus would open the way to meddlesome and malicious inquiry and vilification. It is not conceivable that an act of this description can get many votes in a large, active and growing city like Portland. Liquors must be and will be sold in such a city; and the restrictions should be only of reasonable kind. In this list all are unreasonable, and all are tinged with a fanatical or pharisaical spirit, or with a mixture of both. Prohibition itself would be far more rational and practicable. Enforcement of such a law, were enforcement possible, would practically banish first-class hotels and restaurants and clubs from the city, and everything in the shape of a decently kept saloon.

It appears there was difficulty in obtaining names for this petition, to make up the number necessary for filing it lawfully; so there was a large amount of forgery, for which the grand jury has just now found sundry indictments. Yet the committee that presses this measure introduces it to the public with an indignant complaint that "means fair and foul have been used to prevent the people from having an opportunity to vote on it!" Further statement would seem scarcely to be necessary for submission of this proposal to the candor of the public. The result of the vote on it will be interesting enough to all concerned—especially to the promoters.

A suit in the Circuit Court in this city Saturday brought to light a very interesting bill of sale by which one John Braganza sold his wife to H. Ruddat for a consideration of $150. As specifications of weight, height, age, disposition, etc., were not supplied, it is, of course, impossible to form an opinion as to the accuracy of the figure mentioned as a quotation on second-hand wives. The condition of the market on the date of the transaction might also have an effect on the price. It may be that the supply was greater than the demand and $150 was a bargain price. The law which prohibits "gambling" may invalidate this bargain sale, but if it should fail to do so it would seem that a new avenue for the settlement of matrimonial misfits has been opened and the business of divorce lawyers seriously interfered with. Under this new plan an unsatisfactory husband or wife could be sold to the highest bidder, just as our Eastern heiresses are now sold to foreign noblemen.

An attempt is being made to have the stock of the Steel Trust sold on the Paris Bourse. The French have been for years very much averse to dealing in American securities, the comparatively small investments they have made in this line being confined to railroad stocks. Considering the manner in which some of our high financiers have played ducks and drakes with foreign money that came to this country in good faith, this suspicion may be excused. The French, however, should not be afraid to buy American steel or any other Wall-street securities after the admirable courage they display in placing such an overwhelmingly large share of all their eggs in the Russian basket. They may get "stung" here occasionally, but they are running no such risks as are involved in the colossal financing they have done for Russia in recent years.

Three of the candidates for the Mayoralty proclaim themselves exemplars of political righteousness and civic virtue, but all these declare the fourth candidate an undesirable citizen. The fourth candidate meanwhile says nothing about the other three, but will content himself with receiving more votes than all of them put together. The painful part of this business is that each one of the righteous three thinks himself not only more righteous than the fourth, but more righteous than the other two. You see, when it comes to telling off the desirable from the undesirable citizens, there is apt to be disagreement even among those most addicted to the creed of the Pharisee.

Mr. Orton, Bourne patriot, gets a land office job. His father-in-law, Mr. Young, has the Portland postmastership. Mr. Williamson, another political servant of Bourne's, is assistant postmaster; Mr. Schuebel was to be District Attorney, and Mr. U'Ren something else. We behold now the degree of these gentlemen's patriotism and of their anxiety for Statement One and direct primaries. Under the circumstances, it is hardly any wonder that the Bourne bunch could not show sufficient improvement over Cader Powell Marshal of Alaska, to put one of their own number in his shoes.

Kellaher's proposal to Munly and Albee that these three should cast lots to decide which two of them should withdraw and leave the third in the field would have seemed more liberal, doubtless, had he offered as alternatives the choice of shaking dice or playing a game of seven-up for it. Mr. Kellaher clearly, after issuing the challenge, had no right also to name the weapon and to prescribe the details. The wise man shies off from playing with another at that other's game.

Heavy rains have been falling in Wasco and Sherman Counties during the past week. This is the year in which the farmers of the two counties failed to renew their contract with the California rainmakers. Jupiter Pluvius probably objected to the amateurs, and is now demonstrating the advantages of the original system of rainmaking.

In the proposition for a new liquor law, creating an excise board, we find no provision for salaries for members of the board. It is expected, doubtless, that the Council will provide the salaries, and that they will be sufficiently large to encourage applicants and to sustain the dignity of so important a branch of the city government.

Many a citizen in Oregon surpasses in patriotism John Hays Hammond, who has refused the post in China; also ex-Senator Fulton, who refused the same job. But Oregon's two Senators in Washington are unable to prove that patriotism in any of their admirers in this state, who need the job.

Several candidates for Mayor, professing themselves champions of direct primaries, are resisting the two primary nominees and setting themselves up as friends of the people. Their motto is, "Let the people rule—so long as they rule our way."

The various health boards, state, county and city, are not issuing so many scare bulletins recently. Is it possible there are jobs enough without creating more, and that salaries are sufficient?

There are five candidates for Portland Mayor. It is a matter of considerable concern whether the Municipal Association will have enough votes to go round.

Nobody boasts now of having elected Mayor Lane two and four years ago, perhaps because nobody of "influence" likes to take the responsibility.

Even if rain should hold back the roses a bit, Portland a little later can hold a big show for wheat, apples, potatoes, etc.

Fighter Nelson is the only happy pugilist in the ring today. He is better than any "nigger" in his class.

No doubt crooks and thieves also admire the police on parade, even if on no other occasion.

CALLS SIMON FOES TO MUNLY.

Democrat Chief Says Albee and Kellaher Bolt People's Primaries.

PORTLAND, May 30.—(To the Editor.)—Primary nominating elections cost the taxpayers a pretty amount in rents, carting polling booths to the various precincts and back to the Courthouse; for printing ballots and for hire of judges and clerks of elections, etc. Hence the primary elections should be either used and the results respected or else be abolished as a failure and a waste of public money.

In the recent primary election the people as a whole were wise enough to center the opposition to Joseph Simon on one man, namely, Judge M. G. Munly.

Since the said election, however, two bolting independent Republican candidates have solicited an indulgent public for the signatures necessary to grant them an opportunity to run for the Mayoralty. Not the wisdom of the people as a whole, then, but the action of Albee and Kellaher is responsible for a division of the opposition to Joseph Simon.

By their act in bolting the nominations made by the sovereign people in the lawful primaries these two Independents charge that a clear majority of the participating voters lacked the necessary intelligence to choose their nominees in the primaries. Now,—

Messrs. Albee and Kellaher have the unmitigated gall to ask for the office of Mayor at the hands of the people before whom their very candidacies are an expression of the contempt they feel toward the voters for their refusal to nominate Mr. Rushlight. To any unbiased mind the natural conclusion is that their candidacies are in the interest of Mr. Simon.

There has been no charge of fraud in connection with the conduct of that election and the real contest now is and will continue to be between the two candidates named in those primaries. Either Judge M. G. Munly or Joseph Simon will be the next Mayor.

G. H. THOMAS,
Chairman Democratic City Central Committee.

CHEAP CONCRETE HOME AT LAST

Edison's Plan of a $1200 House; Would Cost $25,000 if Built of Stone.

New York Cor. Kansas City Star.

Thomas A. Edison has just sent word to the newspapers that he had completed his scheme for building a concrete house for $1200, which, if constructed of stone in the same design, would cost between $25,000 and $30,000.

The price he names could not prevail if only a single house was to be built. That he wants to be understood clearly. What he means is that if the reinforced concrete houses were built in blocks, by his design and through the use of his molds, the cost of each house in a block would not be greater than about $1200.

The Edison house-building plan calls for a one-family house, on a lot 40x60 feet. The floor plan of the house is 21x30 feet. Each house will contain six rooms and a bath, and the cellar will extend beneath the entire house and will contain the boiler, washtubs and coal bunker. The decorations will be cast with the house and therefore will come from the molds as part of the structure and not merely be stuck on.

Castiron molds will be used in building the houses, and they will vary in design. After the concrete foundation has been laid and has hardened the molds will be set upon it.

Edison says it will take four days to set up the molds. The liquid concrete can be poured into them in six hours. The molds will be kept in use for four days until the concrete hardens, and then it will require four days to remove them. That means the house will be finished in a fortnight.

One Apple Tree Yields $20,000.

Philadelphia Record.

What is probably the most valuable apple tree in existence stands in front of the Russell Smith residence, on the hill just above the Episcopal Church at Weldon, on the Willow Grove pike beyond Glenside. Mr. Smith is said to have made $20,000 out of this tree; not from the sale of its fruit, because the apples are small and scrawny; nor from cuttings, because the tree has no value in this respect, but from painting it when it is clothed in its wonderful Spring garment of red and white, blossoms and half-opened green leaves. Mr. Smith was a celebrated scenic and landscape painter, and this apple tree in blossom was one of his favorite subjects. His canvases commanded a high price and the apple blossom pictures never went begging for purchasers. In fact, they were as good as sold when painted.

Hall Caine Would Kill $1.44 Novel.

New York Herald.

It would seem that Hall Caine's new story, "The White Prophet," is to be published at 84 cents in cloth and 60 cents in paper covers. "This may or may not prove an important new departure," says Dr. Robertson Nicoll, who announces it in the British Weekly. "Hall Caine," he adds, "claims, I believe, to have destroyed the 84-cent novel, and he is now aiming at destroying the $1.44 novel." If Mr. Caine makes the claim here mentioned, it must be based on the fact that his "Manxman" was published at $1.44 in 1894, shortly after the circulating libraries issued their famous ukase on the "three volumer," but really there had been many $1.44 novels in one volume before then.

Rescues a Shipwrecked Cat.

London Daily Mail.

The salvage steamer Enterprise, which put into Dover from the wrecked liner Mahratta on the Godwins, had on board a black cat which was rescued 17 days after the liner was abandoned. The cat was in a terribly emaciated condition when discovered by the salvage men, having had nothing to eat or drink during that period, and it was very wild. Eventually Diver G. Fabian succeeded in capturing it, and it is being made a pet of on the Enterprise.

Wren Builds Nest in Coat Pocket.

Hagerstown (Md.) Dispatch.

When Lorenzo Crilley, near Beartown, after his day's work, removed his coat from a fence where it had been hanging since morning, he thrust his hand into his pocket and found that it was full of twigs. On making an investigation Crilley discovered that a wren had built a nest in his pocket during the day. Other workmen had discovered the wren while she was at work, but they would not disturb her.

A Great, Golden-Crowned Island.

New York Press.

On Governor's Island, New York, 113 acres have been planted in sunflowers. A United States officer said: "When those thousands of plants are all in bloom it will make Governor's Island, from Ellis Island, the Jersey and Staten Island shores, the western part of the Battery and South Brooklyn look like a great golden-crowned island."

Skeleton of Victim in Evidence.

In a court at Stamford, Conn., the state produced a skeleton alleged to be that of Joseph Bergamo, and stood it alongside of Dominico Bove, who is on trial for participation in the alleged murder of Bergamo. The skeleton seemed to affect the courtroom crowd more than it did Bove. He gazed at it unflinchingly.

Vote the Three Down.

People's Press (East Side).

Van Hoonlsen's bridge game, Kellaher's municipal lighting plant hoax and McKenna's excise commission blue law are three one-man measures. Vote them down.

HOW TO VOTE ON INITIATIVE MEASURES

Suggestions as to the Various Enactments to Be Passed On by the Electorate June 7. But If You Are in Doubt, Vote No.

The Oregonian has been asked by numerous citizens to indicate to them how they should vote on the various initiative measures at the city election June 7. In common with most citizens, The Oregonian is quite unable to express a clear opinion on some of the amendments; on others it has definite views. It disclaims any purpose in the following to dictate to the public how it shall vote, and it hesitates to accept the responsibility of any such recommendations, but ventures nevertheless the following suggestions. If the voter is in doubt on any subject, however, the safe rule is to vote NO. It should be noted that the figures in parentheses, such as (161), are the numbers as they appear on the official ballot, and they are included here for purposes of guidance. Many of the proposals are difficult, conflicting or contradictory, and on some of them The Oregonian reserves the right to deliver its final opinion.

An act to amend and generally revise the city charter, submitted by a committee of 15 citizens and proposing a commission form of government. Vote (158) NO.

Alternative amendments relating to the manner of paying for water mains and providing, first, that all such mains shall be paid for by assessment upon the property benefited and, second, by payment out of the water fund. Shall the cost of these mains be paid by the property benefited. Vote (162) YES.

Shall the cost of water mains be paid out of the water fund. Vote (163) NO.

Providing that city official advertising shall be let only to a daily newspaper which has been published continuously for at least one year. No recommendation.

Authorizing the Council to regulate electric wiring and creating the offices and defining the duties of Electrical Inspector and Purchasing Agent. Vote (109) NO.

Requiring holders of all franchises granted by the city to file quarterly reports of receipts and disbursements and an inventory of their assets and liabilities with the City Auditor. Vote (136) YES.

Providing for a woman's auxiliary to the Police Department. No recommendation.

Providing that the City Treasurer, upon the direction of the Council, may purchase bonded warrants of the city with money from any idle fund and hold such warrants as cash. No recommendation.

Permitting banks with a paid-up capital stock of $50,000 to receive deposits of city funds on proper security, prohibiting standing funds from being deposited on time certificates of deposit and authorizing receipt of Port of Portland bonds or School District No. 1, Oregon, bonds as security for such deposits. Vote (117) NO.

Authorizing the City Treasurer, upon approval of the Council, to deposit surplus funds in banks upon open account and to accept as security therefor surety bonds in one and one-half times the amount so deposited. Vote (118) NO.

Excluding the Chief Deputy City Engineer, Building Inspector and Purchasing Agent from the operation of the Civil Service regulations. No recommendation.

Placing the burden of proof on all discharged Civil Service employes. Vote (122) YES.

Authorizing Municipal Judge to appoint a deputy clerk at a salary of $100 a month. Vote (123) NO.

Requiring the City Auditor to serve as clerk of street viewers and prepare all such reports. Vote (124) YES.

Requiring the Auditor to withhold the delivery of any warrant for damages on account of opening or widening of a street until the person in whose favor the warrant is drawn shall exhibit proof that there are no prior liens on the land appropriated. Vote (125) YES.

Providing that before the Council shall order the vacation of any street the petitioners must give assurances that the street so vacated will be dedicated to the use of the general public. Vote (126) YES.

Providing that in all street improvements ordered by the Council the city shall be deemed to have appropriated the earth above grade and within the street lines of such improvements. Vote (132) YES.

Requiring property owners, whose property has been bonded for street and sewer improvements, to pay annually one installment of principal, together with interest, and authorizing the city, when such payment is not made within 90 days after it becomes due, to declare all remaining unpaid installments immediately due and collectible with the penalties already provided. Vote (134) YES.

Increasing rate of interest on delinquent special assessments from 6 to 10 per cent per annum. Vote (135) YES.

Providing that the acceptance by the city, through its proper officials, of any local improvement shall be conclusive evidence that the work was performed according to plans, specifications and the ordinances of the city. Vote (138) YES.

Consolidating the Water, Park and Health boards with the Executive Board and proposing that the principal and interest of the unissued $1,500,000 of water bonds and the cost of laying water mains shall be paid out of the water fund instead of by general or local assessment. Vote (140) YES.

Providing for issuance of bonds to pay for general distribution of water mains, ten inches in size and over and providing for the payment of the principal and interest from the water fund. Vote (142) YES.

Providing that the salary of the City Engineer shall be fixed by the Council, on the recommendation of the Executive Board, and that it shall not be less than $200, the present salary. Vote (145) NO.

Providing that the salary of the City Treasurer shall be fixed by the Council and shall be not less than $200 per annum, present salary of the office. Vote (147) NO.

Providing that the salary of the City Attorney shall be fixed by the City Council and shall be not less than $200 per annum, present salary of the office. Vote (149) NO.

Authorizing a bond issue of $150,000 for the purchase and installation of a modern garbage crematory. Vote (150) YES.

Authorizing the issue of $2,000,000 of bonds for a high bridge across the Willamette River from Broadway and Larrabee streets on the East Side to a point on the West Side where Broadway, if extended, would intersect Seventh street. Vote (152) YES.

Regulating electric wiring and requiring that all high-voltage wires be suspended at least four feet from all wires carrying 600 volts or under, and marked "Dangerous." Vote (156) NO.

Proposing the diversion of the Madison-street bridge fund and authorizing the issuance of an additional $400,000 of bonds for the construction of a high bridge across the Willamette River from Front and Market streets on the West Side to East Second and East Market streets on the East Side. Vote (157) NO.

Authorizing the issue of $1,500,000 of bonds for a high bridge across the Willamette River from First and Sherman streets on the West Side to East Sherman and East Seventh streets on the East Side. Vote (159) NO.

Prohibiting the use of any patented article or any article or process protected by a trade mark in the improvement of streets. Vote (161) NO.

Granting to the Gothenberg Association the exclusive privilege of selling intoxicating liquors at retail for a period of ten years and for which the city shall receive $2,625,000, payable in annual installments. Vote (163) NO.

Creating an Excise Board, consisting of the Mayor and four members, appointed by him, for the regulation and control of the liquor traffic in this city. Vote (165) NO.

Proposing an issue of $2,000,000 of 40-year 4 per cent bonds for the purchase and installation of a municipal electric light and power plant and creating a commission of three members to supervise and direct the acquisition and operation of the property. Vote (167) NO.

An ordinance imposing an annual tax of from $2 to $10 on all vehicles, except those used exclusively for pleasure. (Submitted under the referendum after having been enacted by the Council over the Mayor's veto). Vote (168) YES.

CITY ELECTION MATTERS.

Explanation of Measure Pertaining to Tax on Vehicles.

Of the 35 measures to be passed on by the voters in the city election, Monday, June 7, only one is submitted under the referendum. It is what is known as the vehicle ordinance, which provides an annual tax of from $2 to $10 on all vehicles, except those used for pleasure only. This ordinance was passed by the Council on February 15, 1909. It was vetoed by Mayor Lane on February 24 of the same year, and passed by the Council over the Mayor's veto on February 26, by a vote of ten to five. The merchants of the city organized and called the referendum on the measure with the result that its operation has been held up until the people should determine whether or not its provisions should be enforced.

The ordinance provides an annual tax of from $2 to $10 on "any person, firm, corporation, owner or keeper of any stagecoach, coupe, hack, carriage, dray, truck, cart, wagon, automobile or other vehicle which shall be used for the conveyance or transportation of persons, packages, goods, wares, merchandise, freight or any other kind of material or materials from place to place within the city of Portland, or for any other business."

Under the ordinance vehicles are classified as follows:

For each truck or dray drawn by two animals, $10; for each additional animal used in drawing such truck or dray, the additional sum of $2; for each truck or dray drawn by one animal, $5; express wagon drawn by two animals, $8; express wagon drawn by one animal, $4; each delivery wagon delivering goods, wares or merchandise, within the city, without charge, drawn by two animals, $4; each such delivery wagon drawn by one animal, $2; each vehicle used for hauling dirt or any other material, drawn by two animals, $5; each such wagon drawn by one animal, $2.50; each hack, carriage or coupe drawn by two animals, $10; each such vehicle drawn by one animal, $5; each omnibus or other vehicle used in transporting passengers from place to place within the city without hire, $2.50; each such omnibus or other vehicle used in transporting passengers for hire, $10; each automobile used for hire, $10; for every other vehicle not enumerated above and used for business, drawn by two animals, $5; drawn by one animal, $2.50.

The owner or driver of every such vehicle covered by the terms of the ordinance is required to place on each side of his vehicle, in a conspicuous place, a metal plate or tag, not more than three inches in width and four inches in length, on which shall be printed or engraved the word "License," and also the number and year corresponding to the number and year of the license issued for such vehicle by the City Auditor.

The license tags required to be placed on the different classes of vehicles shall be furnished by the City Auditor at the time the license fee is paid. At the expiration of the year for which the tax has been paid, tags of a different color are to be issued to replace those issued under the former license. Upon the payment of an additional fee of 50 cents, the City Auditor is authorized to issue duplicate license tags to replace those that may have been lost.

Violation of any of the conditions of the ordinance is punishable by a fine of from $5 to $50 or by imprisonment in the City Jail for not less than five days nor more than 25 days, following a conviction in the Municipal Court. Any person who shall counterfeit any license plate or tag provided to be issued under the ordinance, or who shall place, permit or cause to be placed upon his vehicle any such counterfeit plate or tag, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction in the Municipal Court shall be punished by a fine of not less than $20, or by imprisonment in the City Jail for not less than 60 days.

Merchants and teamsters unanimously object to the provisions of the ordinance which they contend is class legislation. They insist that the license tax proposed is unjust and for that reason are conducting an active campaign that the voters may sustain the referendum which has been called and defeat the ordinance.