CITY TO COMPETE IN IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Takes Steps to Force Contractors to Do Work at Reasonable Rates.

WILL SAVE MONEY ON WORK

Puts In Lowest Bid for Laying Water Main on Everett Street and Is Given Contract—Laying of Pavement Also Planned.

Mayor Simon, acting for the city, has invaded the stronghold of the contractors' combine, and threatens to do all kinds of improvement work through municipal operation. He secured the contract yesterday morning for laying a water main in Everett street, from Nineteenth street to the Cornell road, but this in itself is a minor matter. The real significance of the action is that the administration intends to compete in all manner of work unless better prices are quoted, including the laying of hard-surface streets.

"I am not doing this work for pecuniary benefit," said Mayor Simon, in speaking of the contract for the water main, "but to show to contractors the power of the city to do this and other kinds of work. There must be better rates for improvement work, and unless the contractors submit more reasonable bids, there is going to be municipal competition. The city has the power and full authority to proceed in this matter, and I propose to do so unless conditions are very much remedied. Property-owners are paying a good deal too much for their improvements, and I do not intend to permit it any longer."

Makes Bid on Main as Test.

Mayor Simon selected the main in Everett street as a test, as he had decided that the cost of laying these pipes and the performing of other work is costing too much. The bids that were submitted by Contractors Paquet and Pottage two weeks ago for this particular main were above $5000, and Mr. Paquet's bid yesterday was $4780, showing clearly that he knew his first proposal was too high. Mr. Pottage did not submit any bid this time. The bid of Joseph Simon was $4338; Jacobs-Bade Company, $5142, and the Barber Asphalt Paving Company, $5773. The board promptly awarded the contract to the lowest bidder, as usual.

This is the first time that the city has entered into actual competition with contractors, but it is said that, unless there is a big reduction in the bids in future, it will not be the last.

"I intend," said the Mayor, "to force down the prices of all this work that contractors have been doing in Portland. I will not tolerate the present charges, and if they do not figure closer, I will take steps to have it done through municipal operation."

The Water Board will proceed at once to lay the main in Everett street, the Mayor simply making the bid for it.

New Pipe for Sellwood District.

The Water Board adopted a resolution ordering a $25,000 pipe laid into the Sellwood district, and connecting with a system to furnish water to intermediate points, not including the Mount Scott district. This will go to the Council next Wednesday for confirmation, and all possible speed will be made in the installation, it being understood that the Council will pass on the recommendation favorably. There is the most urgent need for the new supply system. Chief Engineer Clarke will submit a report at the next meeting, for a system to take care of the Mount Scott territory. It is the intention of the Mayor and members of the board to relieve the situation in all needy places as rapidly as it is possible with the funds at hand, which are now ample for this work.

Mayor Simon asked T. B. Wilcox, a member of the board, to take up the matter of securing co-operation between the board and the street improvement department, so that better results may be obtained in the matter of laying mains ahead of hard-surface streets. Owing to the lack of system, the proposed main on Union avenue had to be abandoned, as the hard-surface pavement is laid ahead of the pipe. The Mayor will not allow the pavement to be cut, except in extreme cases.

BRICK BLOCK IN GRESHAM

First State Bank Is Erecting Modern Structure.

GRESHAM, Or., Aug. 19.—(Special.)—The First State Bank building, at the corner of Powell and Main streets, is being raised two stories and an addition is being added to the north end. The bank building will be an imposing structure when finished, and will have the distinction of being the first brick structure east of Mount Tabor. The bank will continue to occupy the enlarged lower floor, while the upper story will be used for offices.

Adjoining the bank building on the north, another commodious brick structure of two stories and two store-rooms is just being finished by T. R. Howlitt. One of the lower rooms will be occupied by the Gresham Postoffice on October 1. Postmistress McCall has just ordered a complete new cabinet and other postoffice furniture. The upper floor will house the "central" of the Farmers' Telephone lines and will also contain the offices of several doctors and dentists.

Another brick building is contemplated, also a reinforced concrete building, both of which will probably be built before Winter.

THEY COMPLAIN OF SECT

Neighbors Ask Police to Quell Noise of Tongues of Fire.

The police have been called upon to dampen the ardor of the Tongues of Fire sect, which holds campmeetings nightly at Sixtieth and East Hoyt streets. Neighbors in the vicinity of the campgrounds complain of the sect's form of services.

When carried away with religious enthusiasm the scenes about the camp resemble a circus performance, according to the contention of the complaining neighbors.

Inman-Poulsen Suit Dismissed.

Attorney George S. Shepherd, representing the Inman-Poulsen Lumber Company, secured the dismissal in the Circuit Court yesterday afternoon of the company's suit against the city and the Pacific Bridge Company. A temporary injunction restraining the city and the bridge company from filling East Sixth street had been issued, but the City Council having rescinded all the proceedings relative to the fill, continuance of the injunction was found unnecessary. The lumber company alleged that the assessment of $28,000 against its two blocks on account of the Sixth-street fill, was exorbitant, 17 blocks to the north being assessed only $9000 and six blocks to the south only $3400.

BUNCO QUEEN GOES NORTH

Seattle Detective With Mrs. Myrtle Johnson Passes Through City.

Mrs. Myrtle Johnson, the "Bunco Queen," arrested in Oakland recently upon the request of the Seattle police, arrived here in custody of Detective Peyton of the Seattle police department yesterday. She is being returned to the northern city with Harry Chesterfield, an alleged confederate with her in her recent operations.

The woman is accused of trying to swindle a Seattle streetcar company out of a sum of money as balm for injuries she avers she sustained in that city several months ago. With her is her 4-months-old child, whom she used to gain the sympathy of witnesses. The detective and his prisoners left for Seattle last evening.

O. A. C. GRADUATE KILLED BY FALL FROM BRIDGE.

W. D. Sutton.

W. D. Sutton, an Oregon Agricultural College graduate of the class of 1909, and for four years a resident of Oregon, died yesterday at St. Vincent's Hospital from the results of an accident sustained last Tuesday, when he fell off the North Bank Willamette bridge, a distance of 45 feet. In the fall Sutton's right ankle and wrist were crushed and he suffered internal injuries which finally resulted in his death. The remains were taken East last night, by a brother of the deceased to the family home in Darlington, S. C. The surviving members of the family are a sister, a brother and the mother.

FIGHT MADE OVER SALOON

Possession of Grogshop Raises Legal Battle.

The suit of Conrad J. Carstens, sometimes known as George Carsons, against Ed E. Smith and H. J. Kimball over the possession of the Office saloon, at 89 Sixth street, was tried before Circuit Judge Gatens yesterday afternoon. The suit is for an accounting, Carstens alleging that Smith and Kimball conspired to defraud him of his property.

Carstens went on a trip to Seattle, and from there to San Francisco last May, leaving Smith with a power of attorney and a bill of sale to the saloon. He says he authorized Smith to act as his agent in his absence, and to sell the saloon for $4000 if possible. He had bought out his partner, R. P. Walsh, a short time before, and wanted a mortgage held by Walsh paid. Carstens alleges that Smith mortgaged the saloon to Kimball for $3000 more, but Smith says this was necessary in order to meet pressing debts of the business. He offers to turn over the saloon to Carstens as soon as the latter pays $2349 of this $3000, which is still owing. Smith says Carstens left only $81 in the till when he went away.

ROCKPILE MAY BE KEPT

Kelly Butte to Be Maintained if Mount Hood Railway Revives.

When the announcement that work on the Mt. Hood Railway will soon be resumed, and carried through to completion, came to the attention of County Commissioner Lightner yesterday, he repudiated his statement of the day before that the force of men at Kelly Butte would be gradually decreased, and said that if the report regarding the railway is correct, the force at Kelly Butte may be increased.

Commissioner Lightner said Wednesday that as only about six miles of unmacadamized road is now within hauling distance of the butte, that institution had seen its best days. But yesterday he made the statement that if the Mt. Hood Railway is built, a new field will be opened up, and that the county would then need all the rock the quarry can turn out.

WEATHER IS HOT, BUT—

Temperature Sags a Trifle From Strenuous Showing of Wednesday.

Hot-wave conditions prevailing in Portland for the past several days were not so noticeable yesterday, for the temperature did not register nearly as high as on Wednesday. The maximum yesterday was reached at 3 o'clock, when the thermometer showed 80 degrees.

Brush fires in the immediate vicinity of the city, however, caused many to believe it hotter because of the oppressive conditions caused by heavy smoke banks.

The hourly temperatures from 5 A. M. to 5 P. M. yesterday are as follows:

	Deg.		Deg.
5 A. M.	61	12 M.	74
6 A. M.	60	1 P. M.	75
7 A. M.	62	2 P. M.	78
8 A. M.	64	3 P. M.	80
9 A. M.	66	4 P. M.	79
10 A. M.	68	5 P. M.	78
11 A. M.	71		

MAY STOP HUGE CEMETERY GRAFT

Mayor Simon and Councilman Kubli Hot on Trail of Benefiel.

LONE FIR IN LIMELIGHT

City Authorities Discover That Ghoulish Inhumanities Are Being Perpetrated by Persons in Control of Burying Place.

Councilman Kubli announced yesterday afternoon that he will ask the City Council to order an investigation of the "disgraceful condition of Lone Fir Cemetery." He demands to know where Wilson Benefiel, chief stockholder in the corporation, buried the remains of eight persons when a steam shovel recently disturbed their resting places, and declares that, in his opinion, all were reinterred in a single grave.

Mayor Simon is in hearty accord with Councilman Kubli's declared intention, and will assist in every possible way to bring about a thorough investigation of conditions abounding in the cemetery. In company with Mayor Simon, Councilman Kubli, City Engineer Morris, Park Superintendent Mische and Judge Moreland, clerk of the State Supreme Court, viewed the cemetery yesterday afternoon, in an effort to locate the lines of the property controlled by the Lone Fir association, and to segregate the portion owned by the Masons. The latter, it is understood, will stand their share of the expense made necessary to put in a retaining wall to hold the earth in place along East Stark street, where a big grade has been made. This will cost about $5000.

Wilson Benefiel, however, has refused to do anything, and is trying to foist the whole matter onto the city. Councilman Kubli has an ordinance before the Council, appropriating $5000 to build the retaining wall, and it may be necessary to expend this, but Mayor Simon and members of the Council do not intend that the city shall eventually lose this much money; they propose to force the cemetery association and the stockholders of that concern to pay for it.

Huge Graft; Big Disgrace.

"The whole situation," said Mayor Simon, "is a disgrace. Having squeezed the orange dry, figuratively speaking, Benefiel and his associates refuse now to take care of the cemetery. I am greatly depressed over the appearance of the grounds, where it is said on reliable authority there are more than 25,000 people buried. All of the lots have been sold, and many more than should have been, for many are buried in the driveways, and scarcely any care is given to any portion of the cemetery. The conditions are shocking and astonishing. Now that a grade has been put through on Stark street, along the northern edge of the cemetery, and some corpses having been disturbed, it becomes necessary to construct a retaining wall, and Benefiel will not even agree to bear anything like a reasonable portion of the expense. It is said that he has made not less than $150,000 out of that property."

"I never have seen such disgraceful conditions in my life," said Councilman Kubli, in whose ward the cemetery lies. "It is a crying shame, and I will not sit by and allow it to continue without a protest. I will demand that the Council take it in hand and make a complete investigation. Eight bodies were disturbed by the grading crew, working a steam shovel, and I believe that the remains were reinterred in one grave. I think the city should construct the retaining wall for the protection of the other graves that will be uncovered when the rain of this Winter causes the earth to cave in, but steps should be taken to compel the cemetery people, who have made thousands of dollars out of the project, to pay for the work. I will not be satisfied, however, with this; I want better conditions as to the graves in the grounds.

Profits Are Enormous.

"Benefiel is making about $350 a month out of the property right now, but is expending nothing in comparison for keeping the lots as they should be. Something must be done to remedy this disgraceful situation."

Mayor Simon has ordered a list of the stockholders to be submitted to him, and he intends to demand of them that they pay the cost of the retaining wall and of the street grade, or he will have a suit filed against them in the Circuit Court. H. H. Newhall, president of the East Side Bank, is a shareholder, and has signified to the Mayor a willingness to assist in bettering conditions and in paying for the retaining wall.

Mr. Benefiel was expected to meet the official party yesterday afternoon, as he was requested by Mayor Simon to do, but he could not be found. It was said at his residence that he had business elsewhere of great importance and could not meet the Mayor and others.

LEAKS WORRY GRESHAM

CHEMICAL ACTION BLAMED FOR PIPELINE HOLES.

Four Men Are Kept Busy Mending System—Not Serious, Says Dodge.

GRESHAM, Or., Aug. 19.—(Special.)—Many more serious leaks have been showing themselves in the Bull Run pipeline, causing much difficulty and hard work in getting them plugged. Foreman Frank Escaban has four men employed almost constantly, his remedy in stopping the leaks being to stop the holes with a soft iron plug.

It has been decided that the leaks are due to a chemical in the soil, which eats through the iron, instead of electrolysis, as was thought at first. Only for a distance of about four miles east of here are the leaks found and the soil for that distance is entirely free from gravel, being yellow clay. Through the gravel districts the leaks do not appear.

No Cause for Alarm, Says Dodge.

Superintendent Dodge, of the Water Department, when informed of the foregoing dispatch, said there is no cause for alarm, that the small holes referred to have appeared in the pipe from time to time for years. It is not serious, he said.

Report Filed in Montgomery Estate.

Mary Phelps Montgomery, executrix of the estate of James B. Montgomery, filed in the County Court yesterday her 15th report, covering the period between last October and April. In this time she has received $21,170, including the $2460 on hand last September. The disbursements have amounted to $15,272, leaving a balance of $5898 now on hand.

LEG LOST BY HIS FALL

Ladder Breaks, Chinaman Falls and Doctor Amputates Limb.

A rickety ladder leading to the basement of 85 Fourth street, North, cost Lee Foo, a Chinese canneryman, his leg yesterday afternoon. Lee was descending the ladder backwards. When he had gone down part of the way a rung broke and he fell backwards, his leg remaining caught between two rungs. Dr. Zeigler amputated the injured limb at St. Vincent's Hospital.

The bones of the Celestial's leg between the knee and ankle were broken off sharply and the ragged ends protruded through the flesh. The entire weight of the man's body was thrown upon the injured leg, and before he could be extricated from his position the flesh had been so badly torn and lacerated that it was impossible to save the leg, and its amputation was necessary. Lee will recover, although crippled for life.

CARPENTER FALLS 30 FEET

Beam Breaks, Workman Sustains Serious Injuries.

Falling 30 feet from a scaffold at 9 o'clock yesterday morning, while at work on a new two-story frame house rising at Union avenue and Skidmore street, R. Spencer, a carpenter, sustained a broken arm, painful injuries to his hip and internal injuries. An ambulance from the Central stables was summoned, and Spencer was conveyed to the Good Samaritan Hospital.

The injured man will probably recover, although his condition is regarded as serious. The accident was due to the breaking of a crossbeam forming part of the scaffold. Spencer is single and has been in Portland but a few weeks. He was employed by Contractor Hadley.

Jury Drawn for September Term.

County Clerk Fields drew the jury yesterday for the September term of the Circuit Court. Cards containing the names of 120 Multnomah County taxpayers were taken at random from an iron box, in which they had been well mixed with others. Sheriff Stevens' deputies will begin serving subpenas upon the prospective jurymen at once.

COURT MUST KNOW

Judge Gatens Will Have Talk With Mrs. Collins.

HER SANITY TO BE TESTED

Bench Warrant Issued to Bring Alleged Murderess Before Tribunal, but Her Condition Will First Be Investigated.

Circuit Judge Gatens announced yesterday that he will pay Mrs. Kate Collins a personal visit at the Crystal Springs Sanatorium at 8 o'clock this morning. The frequent statements that she is mentally unfit to be brought to the Courthouse to hear the reading of the indictment, and this in spite of the fact that she has been examined by the County Court and local physicians and pronounced sane, led District Attorney Cameron to make a demand yesterday for a bench warrant on which he could bring the woman into court. This is very unusual, as the woman is already in the custody of Sheriff Stevens.

Judge Gatens did not issue the bench warrant, but decided that he would see the woman himself, and determine whether or not she is in fit condition to be brought to court.

Facing the charge of murder in the first degree for the alleged shooting of her young husband, Dr. R. A. M. Collins, Mrs. Collins is said to be "childish." Even her attorney, R. E. Sewall, says he has not talked to her of the case, and it is believed he will endeavor to set up the insanity plea. In fact, the failure to have her produced in court early last week at the time set for her arraignment, strengthens this supposition.

District Attorney Cameron is anxious to bring the case to trial as soon as possible, and as the docket is to be called and cases set next Monday, wishes to have the woman arraigned and have her plea entered before that time. The docket will not be called again until September 7.

W. A. SPANTON TURNED DOWN

County Court Refuses to Acept Offer for Poorfarm.

The County Court conferred yesterday with W. A. Spanton over the complications arising from the sale of the old County Poorfarm on Canyon road, and refused to accept the $30,000 tendered in part payment. The matter was postponed until tomorrow, when Judge Webster and Commissioner Lightner return from a trip to Eastern Multnomah County to look over the roads.

The Judge and Commissioner left yesterday morning with County Farm Superintendent Jackson in the latter's automobile. The County Court is attempting to repudiate its contract with Spanton because he did not make the $30,000 payment on the $154,000 purchase price on time.

Award of $3000 for Right of Way.

A decision of Circuit Judge Gatens yesterday morning compels the Pence Company to pay James and Kate Dowd, executor and executrix of James Barry's estate, $3000 for the right of way for Pence's flume over the Barry property on Linnton road. This is the flume with which Pence was attempting to fill Guilds Lake by washing down dirt and gravel from the hills above. Failure of Pence to agree with the Dowds as to the price he should pay, led to the selection of three persons to arbitrate the matter. His suit in court was to set aside the award of the arbitrators, but the decision yesterday was against him.