

PORTLAND NOW CITY OF MODERN HOTELS

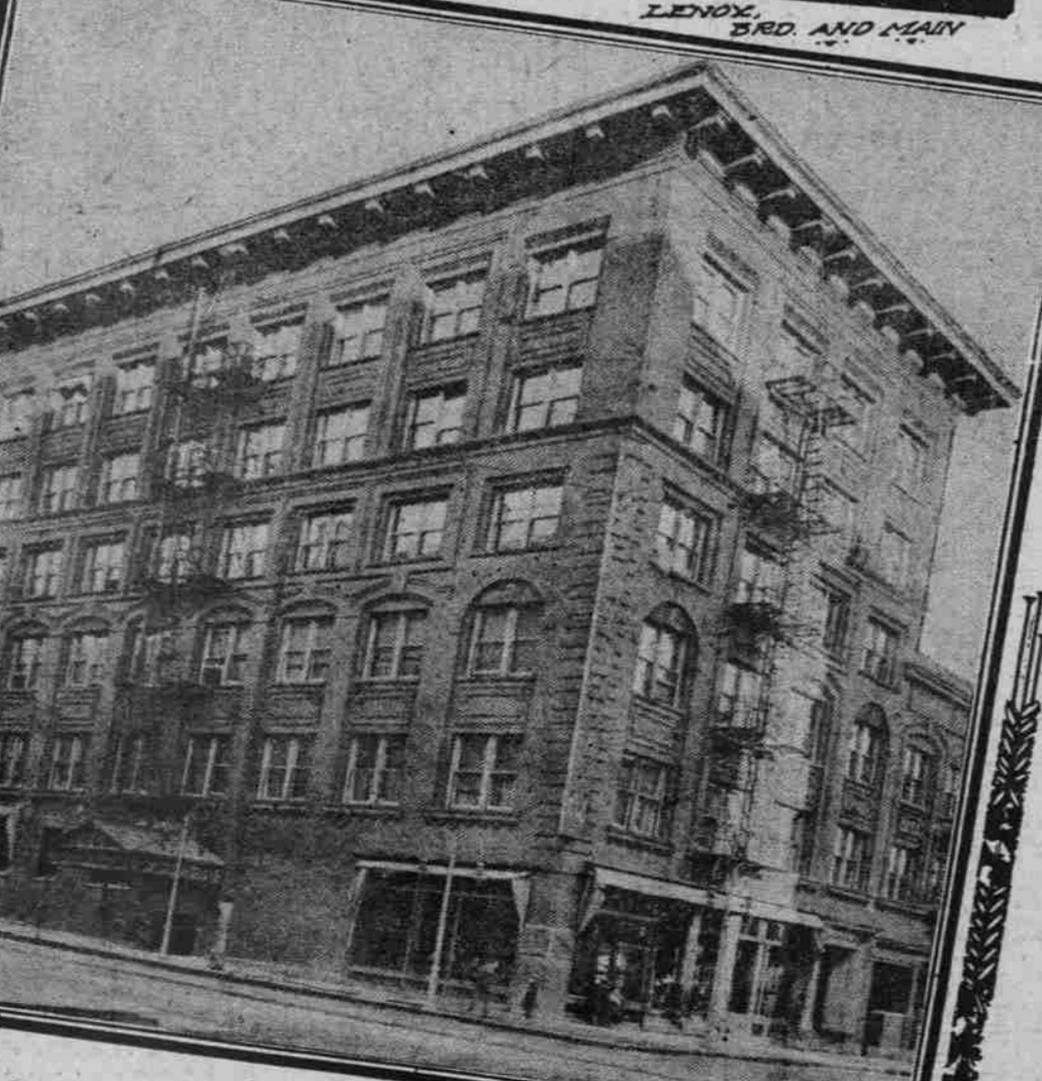
Hostelries Adequate to Accommodate Thousands Make Life Pleasant for the Tourist.

By C. M. Dickinson, President Western Hotelmen's Protective Association.

AMATE suited to the comforts of man, and resources stored by nature upon the earth and within the earth, are the primary factors leading to the development of communities and the building of large cities. A hamlet properly located and surrounded by an abundance of natural resources, in order to develop into a thriving, bustling, growing city, needs cheap and efficient transportation. Transportation is divided into two classes—water and rail. In this respect the City of Portland, founded in 1842, was admirably located—how well located probably its original founders never realized. The pathfinders for our greatest transcontinental railroads have recognized these native advantages, and today all rail ways run down hill to Portland. Both banks of the matchless Columbia River, draining an empire, are paralleled by these modern agencies of wealth. Portland's splendid fresh-water harbor is unsurpassed; its rapid growth, supremacy and substantiality are marvels to our Eastern tourists.

It is an undisputed fact that the next requirement to transportation facilities in the development of a city are wholesome, adequate and popular-priced hotel accommodations. The City of Portland has shown a most marvelous growth, and probably no other class of business has better kept pace with and ahead of its growth than have its hotel facilities. The public at large probably does not realize the hotel development that has taken place in the City of Portland during the last five years. In the Fall of 1904 there were but five hotels which could be classed as either first or second class, that catered particularly to the wants of the transient guest.

These five hotels had their business at the station to meet the visitor upon his arrival in town. The combined capacity of these hotels was about 800 rooms.



None had more than a very few rooms with private bath, hot and cold running water, and none had telephone conveniences in its rooms. The aggregate market value of the five properties in the vicinity of \$2,000,000. During the lapse of five years no less than 10 other hostelries, varying in size up to 300 rooms, have been constructed, and the original five have been reconstructed and refurbished. Immense amounts of money have been spent upon them, and all today have an excellent and up-to-date accommodations as can be found in cities anywhere.

Besides these more important hotels, an innumerable number of smaller, up-to-date ones have been constructed, and I believe I am within the facts in stating that the hotels in the City of Portland represent an investment of about \$15,000,000. No less than 20 hotels are today sending their busses to the Union Station to receive and transport guests to their hostelries. The hotels of Portland are competent and able to care from 2000 to 3000 transient guests a day. I have never visited any city of twice the size where the traveler encounters at the railway station so many busses as he does when alighting at the Union Station in this city.

In 1905 the Lewis and Clark Exposition was held in this city. The Northwest had never before experienced so large a travel as then, and notwithstanding the small number of hotels existing

as compared with the present, the arrivals were easily cared for and properly housed without exorbitant charges. Various mushroom hotels were constructed to overcharge the traveling public and reap a harvest. Without exception these schemes resulted in financial loss owing to the ability of the then existing hotels and their management.

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, held in the City of Seattle, opened June 15, 1909. The travel from June 15 to October 15 broke all records for the Northwest, and yet the hotels of Portland were able to care for all who applied, with room for more, and the prices were not raised over those always prevailing.

I know of no better argument of the growth of the City of Portland than the improvement of physical conditions and the increase in capacity of its hotels, and today it would be impossible for any influx of travel, either ordinary or extraordinary, to come to Portland and find its hotel accommodations inadequate or its hotel prices exorbitant. I dare say the future will keep pace with the past in the growth of the city, and I personally know that the larger existing hotels of Portland today have plans ready for expansion of capacity as the conditions may warrant. "Heaven hath no welcome like a well-kept inn," and the hotelmen of Portland will see to it that the visitors are properly welcomed and cared for.

LIBRARY NEEDS NEW HOME

Public Institution, Founded and Supported by Portland Citizens, Has Outgrown Building First Occupied in 1902.

A NEW public library building is now proposed for Portland, the handsome structure occupying a half-block on Stark street between Seventh and Park, having now become too small for the growing needs of the institution.

The existing public library, which is not a Carnegie institution, was established on the first floor of the building now in use in 1902. Today every portion of the structure is in use, and the work of the library has been extended until it covers the territory surrounding Portland.

At the end of the first year the membership was 8107, the circulation of books for home use was 110,665, and the number of books in the library was 37,715, more than half of which were uncatalogued.

number of catalogued volumes in the library was 82,558, the lending collection numbered 57,540, the membership was 27,227, and the circulation from the lending collection was 286,480. The estimated increase in circulation for the entire year over the circulation of 1908 is about \$0,000. The number of catalogued volumes has increased in 10 months more than 3000, and the membership more than 4000.

It is interesting also to note that the attendance for the 10 months included in the report of the librarian was 286,527. There are three branch stations of the Public Library—one at Sellwood, one at East Eleventh and East Alder streets, and one at Albina. The Sellwood branch has a membership of 1054, and in 10 months the circulation was 17,136. The Albina branch records a membership of 2192, and a circulation of 24,800; the East Side station a membership of 7666 and a circulation of 42,988.

that the branches are too few, and that the branches that are established are in inadequate buildings. It is therefore proposed, in the event the association finds it possible to acquire sites by gift or otherwise, that it ask the city for the full maximum levy of 2 mills in place of the old levy of .13 mills, and for authorization to build branch library buildings. It is also proposed to sell the central building and site now in use, and acquire a full block farther removed from the business center of the city, and there erect a new building that will provide room for those who visit the library, room for the volumes and give an opportunity also for growth and the broadening of the scope of the institution's activities.

In addition to the central library and the three branches, there have been established nine reading rooms. These are at Arleta, Gresham, Lents, Montavilla, North Albina, Peninsula, South Portland, Troutdale and University Park. There are 200 to 400 volumes in each reading room. There are also 15 deposit stations at each of which a collection of 50 books is placed and changed at intervals. These deposit stations are at Bridal Veil, Brooks, Cedar Hill, Corbett, Fair-

view, German Town, Hurlburt, Latourville, Multnomah, Orient, Palmer, Pleasant Valley, Powell Valley, Rockwood and Woodstock. The total circulation through the deposit stations in the 10 months of 1909 reported was 3825. From August to January study libraries were issued monthly to each of the 10 grades in Multnomah County. Boxes of books numbering 3617 volumes were loaned to the county schools, and the circulation attained 10,737. Seventy-three teachers of country schools were assigned libraries at the beginning of the last school year. The children's department is an interesting and growing adjunct to the main library. This department has a membership of 5456, and during the year there was an approximate attendance of 35,000 children, 10,000 adults, a book circulation of 60,000 and a picture circulation of 18,000. The records of the department show an increase of 15 per cent for 10 months of 1909 over a similar period in 1908. A story hour was one of the features of the children's department during the Spring months. Talks on early Oregon

history were given on successive Friday afternoons by Mrs. Eva Emery Dye, F. H. Grubbs, Thomas N. Strong, Colonel Robert Miller and Colonel C. E. S. Wood. The story hour was well attended throughout the year. The hour has recently been changed to Saturday morning for the benefit of country children who may drive into town on that day.

An exhibit of the library work of Multnomah County was sent to the A-Y-P Exposition, and received a gold medal. Photographs of the branch libraries, deposit stations and other distributing points, together with a model traveling library, formed the exhibit. Pictures of the reading-rooms at Trout-

dale and Gresham and of the school and Grange at Pleasant Valley, and a map of the county showing its distributive points, added greatly to the exhibit and attracted wide attention. In a number of other ways the Library Association is fostering interest in the value of books.