

\$7000 SAFETY-BOX THEFT BAFFLING

Detectives at Sea as to Identity of Stranger Who Duped German-American Bank.

B. R. CHARLES' COIN TAKEN

Electrical Garment Inventor Discovers Loss After Returning From East—Signatures Evidently Not Compared.

Mystery still surrounds the theft of \$5000 from a safety deposit box in the German-American Bank. Detectives employed by the American Bankers' Association are trying to ascertain the identity of the person who told so plausible a story to the officials of the bank and walked out coolly with the money jingling in his pockets.

The money belonged to B. R. Charles, of 1164 Patton avenue, an electrical inventor and the promoter of the United Electrical Garment Company, with offices in the Columbia building. The gold had been put into the vaults January 10, and aside from Attorneys Seabrooke and Stott, Mr. and Mrs. Charles and officials of the bank, no one is supposed to have known where the money was.

The secrecy maintained concerning the keeping-places of the money and the circumstances surrounding its theft make it one of the most remarkable mysteries in the annals of Portland robberies. Its solution rests with the private detectives employed by the American Bankers' Association, the local police not having been invited to assist in unravelling the case.

Coin Is Sticker's Price.

The money was the purchase price of stock in the United Electrical Garment Company. Mr. Charles had entered into a contract to sell half the stock in his invention. Part of this sum had been paid prior to January 10. It was agreed that the balance should be paid January 10. The full amount was due, and was paid to Mr. Charles at a meeting of the board of directors of his company.

Attorneys Seabrooke and Stott were present, representing Mr. Charles, and the money, which was in the form of a check, was handed over in gold coin. Mr. Charles, desiring to carry so large a sum, requested the attorneys to take the money to a bank. Being a depositor and holder of a safety deposit box in the German-American Bank, Mr. Seabrooke suggested that they meet there. Mr. Charles, therefore, took the money and went to the German-American, where they were later joined by Mr. Charles and his wife. The coin was counted there and placed temporarily in the box of Mr. Seabrooke.

Assumed Name Taken.

Mr. Charles said he did not want to deposit the money. He intended taking a trip East and was afraid the coin might be traced to him. He was afraid of a misunderstanding which had arisen in the sale of the stock in his invention. Dr. Patton, who claimed commission for negotiating the sale of the stock, had sued Mr. Charles for \$11,000.

At the suggestion of Mr. Seabrooke the money was to have been put in a safety deposit box under an assumed name, that it might not be located and attached. Mr. and Mrs. Charles, the next day, met Mr. Seabrooke and went to the bank. The money was again counted and arrangements were made for them to have a box under the name of A. B. Carson. Mr. Charles gave his correct address as Patton avenue, but changed the name. Mr. Seabrooke left after the transfer of the money. He did not know anything further than that the return of the box under an assumed name, but did not know the number of the box. The number of the box was known only to Mr. and Mrs. Charles and the bank officials. The money was put away safely and the box was not unlocked until a few days later. Then Mr. Charles withdrew \$200, which he took for expenses on his trip, leaving \$500 in the box.

Money Is Missing.

Last week, after his return, he and his wife discovered their treasure box empty. They notified the bank's officials and demanded the return of the money. This stand they have taken firmly. They contend the bank is responsible for the loss, and through their attorneys have notified the bank that they will hold it to blame for the loss.

On the other hand, the bank has not made good the loss, pleading for time to investigate. Writing intimating what their suspicions are, the bank's detectives have been working steadily since the discovery of the loss.

The day the money is supposed to have been taken from the box, a man rang up the bank by telephone. He said he had been on a trip East and had lost his key and wanted to know how he could get into his box and what a new key would cost him. He gave the name of A. B. Carson, the correct address and the number of the box.

Stranger's Explanation Wins.

He was asked to call at the bank and explain matters further. He went to the safety deposit vault in the rear of the bank, but the young man in charge of the vault would not let him have access to it. The man then told his story to S. G. Reed, president of the bank. The plausibility of his account evidently impressed the head of the bank, who returned a signature to the card usually called for in such circumstances. Then Mr. Reed, having no key to the box, got a chisel and a hammer and broke it open. The tin box inside was turned over to the pseudo A. B. Carson.

Who this stranger was is the mystery which is puzzling the brains of all connected with the case. The number of the box was unknown even to the inventor's attorney, Mr. Charles says he revealed that information to no one.

Two features of the case are peculiar. Although the stranger was supposed to sign a card in the bank, the signature of the thief does not in the least resemble Mr. Charles' handwriting and would have been detected as a forgery. That Mr. Charles is tall, with a reddish beard, and the stranger who represented himself to be "Mr. Carson" is described as being short and clean shaven, with black hair.

Stranger Sent Is Theory.

It is believed by one of the detectives that the man who called for the contents of the box was sent on the errand and was not acting on his own behalf. The same detective theorizes that the box was empty when the stranger called and

that he did not take any money away from the vault with him. Inasmuch as the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Charles followed that of the mysterious stranger and that the discovery of the loss occurred the very next morning, the theory of the detective is that, in some manner, the information leaked from the Charles household accidentally. Mr. Reed, president of the bank, who accommodated the man believed to be the robber, has been away from the city for several days but will return this morning. Mr. Charles would not discuss his loss.

Attorney Seabrooke is mystified over the affair. "At the request of the bank we had agreed not to tell anything about the loss," he said, "believing that any publicity given it would interfere with the work of locating the guilty persons, but somehow the information leaked out. I do not know who gave it out. We did not. It is a puzzle to me. I counted the money last January and gave it to Mr. Charles. It seems incomprehensible that it has been stolen. We all thought that Mr. Charles and his wife and the clerk at the bank were the only persons who knew anything about it, but someone got the information somehow."

FIREWORKS UNDER BAN

MAYOR WANTS NO EXPLOSIVES SOLD ON FOURTH.

Executive Has Desire for Sane Celebration of Independence Day.

Mayor Simon will ask the City Council to prohibit the sale of all manner of fireworks this year during the days preceding and immediately following July 4. In an effort to save life and limb and to prevent property loss by fire.

"I am absolutely opposed to the celebration of Independence Day by explosion of dangerous fireworks," said the Mayor. "Anything I can do to secure action prohibiting the sale of any kind of fireworks I will certainly do. As the City Council controls the situation, the members of that body will have to assist, if Portland is to be spared the usual hilarious Fourth. I am greatly in hopes we can bring this about. It is time the American people were eliminating this danger and the terrible results that follow each year from firecrackers."

Mayor Gaynor, of New York, has announced that no fireworks will be permitted to be sold in that city, and the word has been given out long in advance, so that wholesale and retail merchants wishing to sell fireworks may have notice before the season. Mayor Simon has not the power to issue an order as the Mayor of New York has done, as here the Council controls the situation. The ordinance prescribing what may or may not be sold, and Fire Chief Campbell is obliged to issue permits for the sale of explosives under the provisions of this measure.

When a person comes to me for a permit to sell fireworks," said Chief Campbell, "I advise him as to the ordinance governing it, and if he complies with the provisions, I must give him the permit; whether I want to does not enter into the subject, as the Council has seen fit to legislate regarding it and I simply see that the law is obeyed when I issue permits of this kind."

There is a strong sentiment in Portland for a "sane" Fourth of July celebration, and it is believed that Mayor Simon's recommendation will meet with prompt public approbation. The subject will be drawn to the attention of the City Council, probably informally by the Mayor, who will express his ideas to the various members. Each year has seen a long list of injured persons as a result of firecrackers of various kinds, and there have also been numerous deaths following these celebrations. Every year the police force works overtime to suppress the explosions of prohibited styles of crackers, which find a sale notwithstanding the fact that the laws put the ban on them. Mayor Simon believes that the absolute prohibition of the sale of any fireworks in the month of July season will virtually

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MAYOR OF WALLOWA, OR., IS ELECTED TO SERVE THIRD TERM.

J. P. Morelock has just been elected to serve his third term as Mayor of Wallowa. He was born in Union County, Or., in 1872, and has resided in Union and Wallowa counties ever since. He first engaged in the barber business in Summerville, Or., where he continued three years, and then went to Elgin, where he was assistant postmaster for one year. Coming to Wallowa in 1887, he started a barber shop and confectionery store, which he conducted seven years.

When Wallowa was incorporated, in 1888, he was elected Recorder and held that office four years, when he was elected Mayor. He held the office one year and then moved to Enterprise, where he spent three years in the mercantile business.

Returning four years ago, he built the opera-house, which he since has managed. Three years ago he was elected Mayor, has been twice defeated for the office since and was elected again this year.

stop all of the long list of accidents, personal injuries and vast property losses.

A Healthful Hint.

A bottle of the Hood Brewing Company's famous Beck Beer to ward off that tired feeling. Phone B. 123, H. 1232.

COUNCIL REJECTS LOW BID ON BONDS

Single Offer of 93.10 for Broadway Bridge Issue Is Turned Down.

LATER CALL TO BE MADE

Pending Litigation Has Nothing to Do With Bidding, Says Mayor Simon, Who Explained That Money Market Is Tight.

The sole bid for the \$250,000 issue of Broadway bridge, 30-year 4 per cent bonds received yesterday afternoon was rejected without parley by the ways and means committee of the City Council because the proposal was for accrued interest and 92.10. It is believed by Mayor Simon and the members of the committee that a better offer will be made later. Litigation had nothing whatever to do with the fact that there was but a single bid, it is declared.

E. H. Rollins & Co., N. W. Halsey & Co. and A. B. Leach & Co., of New York and Chicago, made the single proposal. Two things combined to cause this low bidding—the fact that the bonds do not bear but 4 per cent and that the market is glutted with better investments at this time.

Bond Market Is Glutted. That litigation is pending had nothing to do with the case, it is declared by Mayor Simon and the bond-buyers themselves. There were other bidders in the city, but they made no offer. These were representatives of the Harvie Trust & Savings Co. and Morris Bros., represented here by C. K. Williams. As all bonds are purchased with the intention that legality must be established, it will be readily seen that the city's paper was not subjected to any discount at all on this basis. The entire market is glutted and even New York City bonds are being sold below par.

It seems unfortunate, according to some, that the act authorizing this issue of \$2,000,000 Broadway bridge bonds placed the interest at 4 per cent; there are numerous issues all over the country at from 4 1/2 to 5 and there is also an active demand for money, so that bonds are at a low quotation. When the market will recover is a question.

Mayor Attends Session.

At 7 o'clock the ways and means committee was called to order by Mayor Simon, with Councilmen Wallace and Baker present. City Auditor Barbur announced a single bid, and it was read. Councilman Baker, at one time, objected; Mr. Wallace seconded and the motion was carried. A special order was entered, authorizing the Auditor to return the certified check accompanying the proposal. Mayor Simon attended the meeting in person, as he is deeply interested in pushing forward the Broadway bridge work.

"I was not greatly surprised at the low bid," said Mayor Simon, "as I know the bond market is sluggish at this time all over the country. We will wait awhile until we can secure better rates."

New Call to Be Made Later.

Meantime the consulting engineers are completing the plans and specifications for the great high bridge that is to span the Clatskanie River at Broadway street as soon as the city can get the work done. When the bond market clears up a new call for bids will be made.

TWO TO SCAN FOREST ROAD

Government Engineers Prepare to Improve Crater National Highway.

MEDFORD, Or., April 11.—(Special).—W. E. Herring, district engineer of the Forestry Service, and B. F. Heidel, highway engineer, Department of Agriculture, left here today for the Crater National forest. The appropriation of \$6000 made by the Government for improving the road from Medford to the Crater reserve must be used before July 1. Mr. Herring and Mr. Heidel will go over the route to prepare plans and estimates. Bids for construction will be called for within a month.

Estimates for contracts for the 50 miles of highway to be built by public subscription from Medford to the Crater National park will also be made by the officials. The highway will be from 24 to 36 feet wide, that teams or automobiles may pass each other.

There seems to be no doubt now that the macadam road will be completed, as over one-quarter of the \$100,000 required has been subscribed in Medford alone. Other towns in the county will be canvassed soon.

Letters have been sent out by the Commercial Club to bankers, automobile owners and Commercial Clubs in the state urging them to aid in the work. Monday night the Crater Lake Highway Commission will meet with the Ashland Commercial Club to discuss plans for making the road project a success.

LAST CONCERT DATE HERE

Klingenberg-Bettman Recital to Be Given Tonight.

The last of the Klingenberg-Bettman chamber music concerts for the present season will take place tonight at 8:15 o'clock at the Unitarian chapel at Seventh and Yamhill streets and will no doubt be largely attended, as it is quite an event of musical importance in this city. To experience the pleasure of hearing such cultured high-class music elsewhere one would have to travel far. The musicians to appear are: Alf Klingenberg, Henry Bettman, Ferdinand Konrad and Carl Denton. The programme begins with the Dvorak trio op. 21, followed by three violin concertos, "Soprano," "Sonata," "Vivaldi," "Kol Nidre," Bruch, and "Zephyr," Hubay. The event will conclude with the Schumann quartet op. 47.

RAIN STORY POOR DEFENSE

Records Contradict Witnesses and \$25 Suit Is Lost.

Contradictory testimony in the suit brought yesterday in the Justice Court by Edna Wickert, a school teacher of Cedar Mills, against the Fallsala Royal, on Washington street, for \$25, brought out an amusing incident which showed how intentionally the employees of the store all told the same story without being quite sure of the facts. It was brought out during the trial

MOTHERS should teach their little ones the daily use of some good dentifrice and by so doing spare them much pain and annoyance

Dr. Lyon's PERFECT TOOTH POWDER

cleanses, preserves and beautifies the teeth, prevents tooth decay and imparts purity and fragrance to the breath.

W. L. DOUGLAS \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00 & \$5.00 SHOES

Best in the World UNION MADE Boys' Shoes \$2.00 and \$2.50

W. L. Douglas shoes are the lowest price, quality considered, in the world. Their excellent style, easy fitting and long wearing qualities excel those of other makes. If you have been paying high prices for your shoes, the next time you need a pair give W. L. Douglas shoes a trial. You can save money on your footwear and get shoes that are just as good in every way as those that have been costing you higher prices.

FOR SALE BY Goddard-Kelly Shoe Co. 224-226 Washington Street.

that Miss Wickett had purchased a hat there for \$25. The agreement was that if her folks did not like the hat she was to be allowed to return it and get another. She wore the hat away and brought it back, saying that she wanted her money back. This she refused to give, and she refused to exchange it for another.

When placed upon the stand, the representative of the store contended that Miss Wickett's statement was untrue because just after Miss Wickett had left the store there was a hard rain and the hat had been ruined. To corroborate this, several employees of the store were called, and each told of how hard it had rained that day, one of them saying they had seen it rain on the street. Miss Wickett stepped from the door. Miss Wickett denied this.

HORSE FAIR DATE DISLIKED

Salem Also Wants Armory Where Event Can Be Held.

SALEM, Or., April 11.—(Special).—The cloudy and threatening weather that prevailed throughout the two days of the recent fair, Department of Agriculture, left here today for the Crater National forest. The appropriation of \$6000 made by the Government for improving the road from Medford to the Crater reserve must be used before July 1. Mr. Herring and Mr. Heidel will go over the route to prepare plans and estimates. Bids for construction will be called for within a month.

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Two Drown When Dory Sinks.

VANCOUVER, B. C., April 11.—With her flag at half-mast, the New England Fish Company's steamer Manhattan reached port today and reported the drowning of Angus McLeod and Hugh Bechel, two of her fishermen, on the morning of April 8, off Graham

Island. McLeod's body was recovered and brought down by the steamer, but Bechel was not seen after the accident. The lost men were in a dory, which was capsized by a squall.

COLLEGE HILL LOOP HIGH

Eugene to Get Extension if It Collects \$2000 More.

EUGENE, Or., April 11.—(Special).—President J. O. Storey, of the Portland, Eugene & Eastern Railroad, who has been in the city the past few days looking after the interests of the company here, particularly the proposed extension of the street railway system, announced today that the proposed College Hill loop would be built this Spring provided the committee would raise a bonus of \$25,000.

The street railway company originally asked \$40,000 and \$32,000 was raised. When President Storey and Manager Welch arrived here a few days ago they were apprised of this fact and it was practically decided that the extension would not be made. After further consideration, however, Mr. Storey gave encouragement, and it is thought there will be no difficulty in raising the additional \$2000. Mr. Storey says having in hand the collecting of the bonus will meet at the Commercial Club rooms Monday night to raise the additional \$2000. A meeting of the improvement clubs fund needed.

ONLY 4 DAYS MORE Then Prices Will Be Advanced From \$200 to \$300 on Every Lot in the N. E. Quarter of Laurelhurst

Those who contemplate the investment of a small sum down and the balance in easy monthly payments on a home-site are letting slip by one of the grandest opportunities for investment in Portland today if they do not investigate Laurelhurst. To investigate Laurelhurst means to invest in Laurelhurst, for no person who is really in the market for home property can help but realize that values in Laurelhurst are entirely too low as compared with other residence sections not nearly so well improved and much further out from town. Just realize if you can what it means to you to be able to purchase a lot in the most highly improved restricted residence district of the entire city at prices as low and in some cases lower than are being asked for unimproved property on the outskirts of the town. There is no section of Portland which is being as highly improved as Laurelhurst. Every improvement is being made by the city on an elaborate scale—large gas, water and sewer mains, asphalt streets, cement walks, shade trees, cluster lights, etc. It means something to live in a neighborhood where there will be 26 miles of asphalt streets and 52 miles of handsome homes. Laurelhurst is practically in the center of town, for it is only one and one-half miles from the shopping center of Portland. Other residence sections are located way out, with one carline. Laurelhurst is located close in and is reached by four carlines. Take Montavilla, Rose City Park, Sunnyside or Mount Tabor lines. The first two run to and through the property, while the two latter are within two blocks of the southerly portion. See Laurelhurst at once. Do not temporize, but look. See for yourself and be convinced. See the improvements being made NOW. Take the Rose City Park or Montavilla cars, or, better still, call at our office and let us tell you more of Laurelhurst. Then, if you are interested, we will be glad to show you the property in our automobiles. But remember prices advance on Friday, April 15, so act now. For a few days only Laurelhurst lots will sell from \$750 per lot up—Remember

Until April 15th Only LOTS FROM \$750 UP Terms Only 10% Cash, 2% Monthly

Laurelhurst Co. 522-526 Corbett Building Phones—Main 1503, A 1515

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Eugene to Get Extension if It Collects \$2000 More.

BEAUMONT

"The Addition's Delight"

Opening Day Saturday April 16th.

Honored by Women Out where the sun shines Columbia Trust Company Board of Trade Bldg.