

BEING IS MAYOR FOR SEVEN HOURS

Acting Official Settles Vexing Problems, Without Fear or Favor.

"PEOPLE RULE" IS MOTTO

Extensive Hard-Surface Paving Favored—Term Ends, as It Begins, Automatically—Mayor Simon Returns Home.

Acting Mayor Belding yesterday solved the Broadway bridge problem, straightened out the garbage crematory difficulty and otherwise disposed in short order of the vexing affairs that have for months confronted his distinguished predecessor and successor, Joseph Simon. Mr. Belding proved himself an able executive during his first day in office, which was occasioned by the absence of Mayor Simon, who went to Salem early in the morning.

Automatically, at 11 o'clock, when Mayor Simon left the city, Mr. Belding became Acting Mayor, as president of the City Council. He was early at the City Hall ready to take up the burdens of the executive, and Mayor Simon, in quitting the office temporarily, wished his successor well.

"I leave the office in charge of my secretary, but I am a strong believer in Mr. Belding," said the Mayor, laughingly, as he hurried away to catch an Oregon Electric train for the Capital City.

"What policies are you going to adopt during your term of office?" Acting Mayor Belding was asked.

People's Judgment is Guide.

"All the policy I shall have," he replied, "is that I shall do whatever the people want done. I am a strong believer in the people's right to be heard, and I shall deal with all cases fairly and impartially, dealing out equal justice to all and I shall tolerate no favoritism whatever. I shall not question the judgment of the public."

At this juncture, Alex Donaldson, superintendent of the Sixth Ward, entered the executive office and reported for orders.

"Take your entire force, both day and night shifts, and go out into the Sixth Ward and see that the streets are clean," commanded the Acting Mayor.

"But one question," falteringly asked the big superintendent, "the charter limits me that much."

"If you are so ignorant of this city as not to know where the Sixth Ward is, which I represent as Councilman, is, I shall seek a competent man for your position," was the quick reply of the Acting Mayor.

"Will you make any change in the police department?" was asked of Acting Mayor Belding. "Will you 'clean up the town?'"

"If it needs cleaning up, I shall turn the street-cleaning department out and clean it up," said the Acting Mayor. "As I said before, I shall do whatever is best for the people; let the people rule, is my motto."

Bridge Policy Vigorous.

"Now that you are at the head of the city government, what do you intend doing about the Broadway bridge?"

"I have already called up the Court-house and ordered all injunctions dissolved," he replied. "I have telegraphed to Eugene to forward me the money for the \$500,000 worth of the bonds purchased by them recently, and I expect the span to be in operation within a reasonable length of time."

"How about the garbage crematory?"

"I'm glad you mentioned that," smilingly replied the Acting Mayor. "I might have forgotten to mention it on this subject, and speaking seriously of course, I shall, at present, leave it to my subordinates, who, I feel, are as competent as myself to work out that problem."

"What use will you make of the \$600 secret service fund allowed the Mayor each year?" was next asked.

"I shall order my secretary to draw a warrant on the fund, get the warrant cashed and then decide what to do with it," he replied, "I am a firm believer in working out important problems a little at a time. By the way, \$500 is a small sum for secret service, it seems to me."

"Do you favor the proposed South Portland bridge, from Meade to Ellsworth street?" he was asked.

South Portland Widen Span.

"I have given this matter only six months thought," he replied, "and while I do not wish to make hasty and unwarranted statements, yet, in a general way, that I believe the people of the districts affected should have this span. I understand they think it would be a good thing, and unless some contrary evidence is forthcoming, I shall, I firmly believe, sanction this project and give it my hearty support."

"Will you favor hard-surface pavements?"

"I have no hesitation in saying that every street, alley and lane, as well as every back and front yard, in Portland, should be hard-surfaced; with the exception, of course, of people who cannot afford it. In instances such as this, if any should develop, I would favor hard-surfacing, anyway, paying the necessary amount from the general fund, if there was any money in it."

"How do you feel regarding the proposed change in ward boundaries?"

"My attitude as Mayor, is that, personally, I do not care," he replied, "but as a Councilman, I have no objection to the changing of the boundaries, providing my own ward is not changed, unless I own it, and the people are crying for the change; these two provisions alone are all I make in the case."

And thus the day wore on, the Acting Mayor clearing up all possible problems in seven hours. But as his term ended at 4 o'clock, when Mayor Simon returned to the city, his policies were short-lived.

ROAD. On the block system it will measure about 800 feet. The assessment will range from \$5 to \$27 a lot. It increases \$1 for each 100 feet of the boulevard approaches Sandy Road.

The City Auditor will take private checks and will allow property owners on Sandy Road to offset their assessment with the amount of damages allowed for the 30 feet. The assessment becomes delinquent in 30 days, and in nine days the property will be sold if the tax is not paid.

There are 52 blocks involved and the cost of the improvement is placed at \$2,000.

SPEEDERS' FINES LIGHT

Judge Taxwell Recedes From Policy of Extreme Penalties.

Receding from his announced determination to inflict severe penalties upon persons convicted of speeding, Municipal Judge Taxwell swung to the opposite extreme yesterday, and imposed fines below the minimum allowed by law. Three riders of motorcycles, caught in a speed trap set by Patrolmen Troy and Lyon, pursuant to orders from the Chief of Police, escaped with fines of \$10, and in one case this punishment was commuted.

At the hearing, the judge maintained an arbitrary minimum of \$50 in these cases and threatened to send speeders to the rock pile, but the scale of penalties was allowed to drop, first to \$25, then to \$20, and now to \$10, despite the fact that the ordinance provides a minimum of \$25 for speeding outside the fire limits.

GRAND JURY INDICTS TWO

Investigators Also to Take Up Case of Alleged Swindling of Woman and of Death of B. F. Boone in Streetcar Wreck.

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Rampage Hotel, of forging a check for \$150, purporting to be drawn by V. S. White on the Bank of Italy at San Francisco. Unless the grand jury returns an indictment he will probably be ordered released on account of the attitude taken by Governor West against extradition for minor felonies.

Jury Is Instructed.

Presiding Judge Gantenben, of the State Circuit Court, instructed the grand jury at 1:30 o'clock, appointing T. H. McAllister, of 448 Lovejoy street, foreman. The instructions were short, the judge going over the usual ground, telling the jurymen to investigate the management of county institutions, prisons and saloons outside the city limits.

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His arm broken and his face so mangled that his eyesight is impaired by a fall from a hophouse being torn down, Edward Hayes brought suit in the Circuit Court yesterday for the recovery of \$5000 damages. He is suing Paul H. Reimers, B. M. Lombard and the Chehalis Mountain Orchards Company. The house was on a farm

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