

SCHOOL BOARD MAY APPOINT SUPERSEER

Creation of Office of Superintendent of Properties Is Considered.

\$3600 SALARY SUGGESTED

Purchase of East Side Ground Proposed—Three Teachers Resign, Army to Be Engaged for Taxpayers' Meeting.

The office of Superintendent of Properties to supervise the work of architects employed by the Board of Education, to superintend the construction of all new school buildings in Portland, to see that the school property is properly and incidentally to relieve the School Board of the responsibility of countersigning regulations, may be created.

The question was discussed at a meeting of the Board in the Tilford building yesterday afternoon. The annual salary suggested for the proposed superintendent was \$3600, but as members of the Board did not think a competent man could be engaged at that figure, it is probable that the salary will be higher, if the office is created.

H. C. Campbell, a member of the Board, suggested that it is by signing regulations that the members keep in touch with work being done, and that it might be wise to continue doing this work. M. G. Munkley and S. C. Beach said they thought a \$3600 salary inadequate.

Land Purchase Discussed.

It was decided to purchase, if possible, a strip of 250 feet long and 100 feet wide, lying between East Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth streets and Graham avenue and Skiattoo street. This strip adjoins property now owned by the city, and which it is intended to use for school purposes. Jones is the owner of the land sought. He desired to sell three and one-half acres at \$6000. The Board agreed to purchase the land provided he would not charge at the rate of more than \$2000 an acre.

The Board decided to obtain a contour survey of a piece of property lying near the Shaver school. The Board has several pieces in mind to be used for playground purposes, but as there is heavy grade, retaining walls would have to be built, and these would cost as much as could be put in shape the cheapest.

Mary Ward, first grade teacher at Shattuck School, resigned and Catherine Ridgely, of Astoria, was appointed to fill her place. Other resignations and appointments were: Eva Mulkey, fourth grade Ladd School, resigned; Elsie Koesher, of Brooklyn School, elected to fill her place; Lois Yager, teacher of English at Stephens School, resigned; Miss Rose E. Fouts, of Walla Walla, elected to fill her place; Mrs. H. H. Harrigan, teacher of mathematics, has been transferred from the Jefferson High School to the Lincoln High School; O. E. Carr, a graduate of Chalmers College, was elected to fill the place at Jefferson High School temporarily. Miss Maud Laughland will fill the place of Miss Ridgely at Astoria, and Miss Josephine O'Leary will take the fifth grade at Brooklyn School.

CIVIC COUNCIL WANTS CUT

Body Would Lower Tax Levy and Issue Bonds.

Aiming to bring about a reduction in the proposed school tax levy from 6 to 4.5 mills and provide for the deficiency thereby by making up the difference of bonds and to have much of the work outlined for the future cared for by bonds as a means of releasing taxpayers from the burden of the tax, the civic council will attend the annual meeting of the School Board Friday evening at 8 o'clock at the Lincoln High School.

The Council's committee on school resolutions, consisting of E. L. Mills, L. E. Latourette, J. H. Haak, Dr. H. H. Haines, Messrs. H. D. Merchant, O. G. Hughson and H. A. Ruble, will present three resolutions to the Board. One resolution provides that expenditures for school property be raised through future taxation and that the Board provide for the payment of at least one-half of the projects by bond issues and create a sinking fund for their redemption. Another resolution will provide for the reduction of the tax levy and that bonds not to exceed \$400,000 be issued to make up the deficiency in the estimate. The third approves the school bill introduced at the last session of the Legislature, which provides, among other things, for the appointment of a commissioner of school property who is to be responsible for the care and preservation of holdings and the expenditure of funds for maintenance.

FEE REDUCTION IS ASKED

Seaside Lumber Firm's Bondholder Says Attorney's Pay Too Much.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—While no objections have been presented to the recent foreclosure sale of the plant and timber holdings of the defunct Seaside Lumber and Manufacturing Company, a petition has been filed in the Circuit Court by A. Judson Sayre, one of the holders of bonds issued by the company, asking that the attorney's fees be reduced to 5 per cent of the sale price and that the compensation of the trustee be reduced to \$500.

Accompanying the petition is an affidavit from Robert Treat Platt, attorney for the bondholders, that the fee of \$3000 for foreclosing the mortgage and the receiver's fee of \$2000 were fixed when the suit was instituted. The property sold for \$75,000, says the affidavit, and 5 per cent of that amount or \$3750 is said to be a reasonable fee. It adds that if the full amount of the fees asked is allowed nothing will remain from the sale for the benefit of the bondholders.

SHERIFFS' RULING MADE

Only Fees Specifically Named in Code Held Collectible.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—That sheriffs cannot collect fees in civil actions except those that are specifically named by the code in actions subsequent to 1893 is the substance of an opinion written by Assistant Attorney-General Crawford today.

The opinion states that that provision in the code which provides that "sheriffs shall collect the following fees" is a nullity, inasmuch as no provision is made for them to collect such fees for the benefit of the county. The Supreme Court held in the Dunbar case along this line and the opinion of the Attorney-General's office is largely based on the opinion of that court.

Army Orders Are Issued.

VANCOUVER BARRACKS, Wash., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Brigadier-General Daniel H. Brush, not long ago com-

mander of the Department of the Columbia, with headquarters here, is now in command of the Western division, with headquarters in San Francisco, during the temporary absence of the permanent commander, Major-General Murray.

All officers of field artillery in the Western division, including those in this post, whose services can be spared from their usual work, have been ordered to attend service practice with their organizations and during this practice leaves of absence will not be granted, except in cases of the greatest emergency.

An order from San Francisco is to the effect that all officers not regularly assigned to any regiment, but who are attached to regiments, will wear the insignia of the regiments to which they are attached.

The Seventh Infantry, now en route from the Philippine islands to San Francisco, has been assigned to duty at Fort Kameyer, near the First and Third Battalions and Machine Gun Platoon, and the headquarters, now of the Pacific Ocean bound for San Francisco from the Philippines are ordered to Fort Douglas, Utah, for station.

Sergeant Frederick G. Oliver, of the First Infantry, who has been missing for a month, will not be posted as a deserter for a few days, during which time a strenuous effort is being made to locate him or find his body. Several hundred dollars have been offered by different organizations for information leading to his return.

GRAND JURY GETS CASE

SHERIFF TO TURN OVER EVIDENCE IN HARVEY ACTION.

Clackamas County Official Confident That Slayer of Hill Family Will Be Captured in Time.

OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Sheriff Mass announced today that he would turn over what evidence he had in the case of Nathan E. Harvey, the Milwaukee nurseman, acquitted of having any connection with the slaying of the Hill family in Justice of the Peace Samson's court, to the grand jury, which will meet January 10. "I want the grand jury to have the evidence and the case to be sifted to the bottom, not only for the benefit of the people of the county and state, but for the benefit of the man accused," said the Sheriff. "We made a mistake in not introducing more evidence at the examining trial. The mistake will not be made again. I shall have a talk with District Attorney Tongue regarding the course to be pursued."

Scores of friends of Sheriff Mass said today that the Sheriff had done his duty, and should not be blamed in any way. He has worked almost continuously on the case since the finding of the bodies, and has not had the necessary sleep for weeks at a time. It is argued that the Sheriff has done all possible for any human being to do in trying to locate the slayer of the Hills will yet be captured," continued Sheriff Mass, "and I have by no means given up the fight. If I can get the man, I shall have a talk with the Sheriff. We made a mistake in not introducing more evidence at the examining trial. The mistake will not be made again. I shall have a talk with District Attorney Tongue regarding the course to be pursued."

No complaint was filed today against T. F. Cowing, Jr., brother of Mrs. Hill, who fired two shots at Mr. Harvey in an altercation between them December 1.

RELIGIOUS WORKER HERE

John Dean, of Men's Forward Campaign, Has Conference.

John M. Dean, of San Jose, a member of the committee of 40 which is in charge of the district for the Religion Forward Movement, arrived in Portland yesterday from Seattle, and left last night for San Francisco. He was in conference nearly all day with the members of the Men's Forward Movement, and was accompanied by him by R. R. Perkins, religious work director of the Y. M. C. A. He told yesterday that he had conferred with the church workers in Eastern cities, particularly in Des Moines, where he said a municipal lodging-house has been opened as a result of the investigation of the methods used in conducting the lodging-house by the City of Chicago.

CHARTER DRAFTS' FUSION NEXT HOPE

Fate of Proposed Laws Rests With Committee Named to Try to Merge Plans.

Even if the committee from the Council is able to agree on fusion of the different charter drafts, it is still possible for the supporters of the Wood draft in its original form to have it placed on the ballot as an initiative measure, as more than 7500 have already signed for it. A. D. Cridge, a member of the people's commission, who came out last Tuesday night with the insurgents in favor of Benbow's draft, has been a strong supporter of the Wood charter and has been active in placing it before the people. It has also been endorsed and backed by all the labor organizations of the city. Mr. Wood himself has not been taking an active part in the campaign to bring the draft into popular favor and said last night that he intended to take no active part in the future.

The official draft filed by the commission appointed by Mayor Simon is the only one that has been submitted formally to the Council. On the date that had been set for the completion of the draft the commission, of which E. C. Bronaugh was chairman, completed its labors and placed the result of its work in the hands of the City Auditor. The official charter consists of an adaptation of the existing charter to the commission form and provides for few new features aside from those absolutely required to harmonize it with government by five commissions instead of Mayor and Council.

Second Draft Ready. The people's commission announced when it first began its labors that it intended to have its draft completed at an earlier date than the official commission. Before the time had expired, however, an extension until December 17 was asked and granted. Not ready to file the draft at that time, the commission, without petitioning for an extension of time, continued its meetings until Tuesday night when the final signatures of the individual members favoring it, W. C. Benbow, whose short draft brought about the disruption of the commission, said he intended to submit his charter yesterday in the signature of the individual members favoring it, under his own signature and those of his adherents in the minority. Neither draft was filed with the Council yesterday, but will be filed in time to come before the committee of five for consideration next week.

Mayor Urges Consolidation. "I have suggested to the committee," said Mr. Rushlight last night, "that a second commission be appointed to work over and fuse the four into one draft, which shall go on the ballot alone, with the official sanction of the Council. In this new commission I believe there should be at least three men from the Council and the other six should be representatives of as many details as are covered in the existing form. W. C. Benbow headed the other draft. I am not particular as

To the Tarantula Gift Buyer

A Word to Portland's Big Men of Affairs

If press of business or lack of time may have made it impossible for you to make Christmas provision for the family, the trusted friend, the business associate or the faithful employe, there is still time to make ample New Year's provision with little loss of time.

No gift is more in keeping with this joyous season than a fine Piano or Player Piano from Eilers Music

House. At one stroke it is a gift to the whole family. And such a gift! Not for today and to be forgotten tomorrow, but for every day for a generation to come.

\$122 to \$175 will buy you a good, dependable used Piano.

A splendid new Piano, that most houses would proclaim a bargain at \$350, you can buy of us at \$237.

New Player Pianos from \$385 up.

WHY NOT A PIANOLA PIANO OR THE LATEST AUTOPIANO?

NOT YET TOO LATE TO GET ONE OF THOSE PIANOLA PIANOS AT \$8 A MONTH. ALL THE LATEST MODELS ARE HERE TO CHOOSE FROM.



SECOND-HAND PIANOLA PIANOS AT MERCILESSLY CUT PRICES

EXHIBITION AND SALE OF PLAYER PIANOS CONTINUES

December Selling by Far the Largest in Our History. The low prices and exceptionally easy terms do it.

How many are there who really recognize the possibilities of a modern Player Piano, by means of which, without previous practice or study, the whole world of music is opened to everyone? Get one now at the present greatly reduced prices at Eilers Music House. Payments are arranged at \$20, \$15, \$10 and \$8 monthly, at sale prices, for those not wishing to pay all cash. A positive demonstration of what the Eilers sales system actually accomplishes: \$1050 asked elsewhere, here now \$787; \$975 asked elsewhere, here, \$735; \$600 asked elsewhere, here, \$485; \$500 asked elsewhere, here, \$378 and \$385.

These are late 88-note styles, not obsolete types that hardly anyone would wish to buy. In short, a storeful of finest Player Pianos are thrown into one grand, low-price sale that simply annihilates competitive attempts and makes player piano buying a positive duty to many a father or head of a family.

This undertaking, which we carefully planned for many months, is as we anticipated, bringing limitless enjoyment and musical education to every member, old and young, of hundreds of our best homes.

SPECIAL—A free Music Roll Library and Music Roll Cabinet is given to every purchaser in this sale.

Everything we sell is high-grade but low-priced. Nothing unworthy in material, design or workmanship ever finds place among our stocks.

IN THE EILERS BUILDING, ALDER STREET AT SEVENTH

NOW THE NATION'S LARGEST

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ONLY TWO ARE FILED

C. E. S. Wood's Short Form May Go on Ballot Despite Consolidation. Mayor Urges Unity—Wednesday Meeting Called.

With four rival charter drafts in the field, the fate of the commission form of government for Portland will rest in a large degree in the hands of the committee of five appointed by Mayor Rushlight to take steps for a fusion of the different charter drafts, to limit the number to be put to a vote. This committee will meet next Wednesday to consider plans for consideration of the drafts.

At present there are but two drafts in the hands of the Council, the short form drawn up by C. E. S. Wood, and the draft of the official charter commission, and the latter is the only one that has been submitted formally for consideration of the Council. When the people's commission, appointed by the Mayor, was organized, it was intended to be a fusion of the Wood draft and the official charter commission, and the latter is the only one that has been submitted formally for consideration of the Council.

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to the exact methods they use to arrive at an understanding, so long as they devise a satisfactory method of getting out of the difficulty with which the presence of so many prospective charter drafts confronts the people.

The Wood charter was the first completed and copies of it were in the hands of the other commissioners before they completed their work. Mr. Wood also filed a copy informally with the City Council. The Wood charter provides generally for the mere essentials of a commission form of government, placing the executive and administrative power with the Mayor and the legislative power with the Council.

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HOTEL LENOX

OPENED SEPT. 1909. PRIVATE BATHS.
E. D. and V. H. JORGENSEN, Props. and Mgrs.
CORNER 3d AND MAIN STS.
Hot and Cold Water. Long Distance Phone in Every Room.
RATES \$1.00 and Up

The Hotel Bowers

Eleventh and Stark Sts.—Under New Management
offers all the conveniences of a high-class hotel, with all the comforts of a home. European Plan. \$1.00 and up. American plan, too. Famous for its grill, a la carte and table d'hote service. Reasonable prices. Special rates to permanent guests.
F. P. WILLIAMS, MANAGER

HOTEL CORNELIUS

House of Welcome Portland, Or.
Our 14-passenger electric 'bus meets all trains. A high-class, modern hotel in the heart of the theater and shopping district. One block from any carline. \$1 per day and up. European plan.
E. P. MORRIS, Prop. H. E. FLETCHER, Mgr.

THE IMPERIAL

Oregon's Greatest Hotel
350 Rooms, 104 Suites, With Private Baths.
NEW FIREPROOF BUILDING
Moderate Rates.
Phil Metschan & Sons, Props.

PORTLAND HOTEL

The largest and most magnificent hotel in Portland; unsurpassed in elegance of accommodations or excellence of cuisine. European plan \$1.50 per day and upward.
G. J. KAUFMANN, Manager.

NEW PERKINS

Fifth and Washington Sts.
A Hotel in the Very Heart of Portland's Business Activity
MODERN IN EVERY RESPECT
Electric Auto Buses. Cars to and from Union Depot every few minutes.
L. Q. Sweetland, Mgr. C. H. Shafer, Ass't Mgr.

HOTEL OREGON

Portland, Or., Both hotels centrally located, modern in every respect, and conducted on the European plan.
Wright-Dickinson Hotel Co., Props.

HOTEL SEATTLE

Seattle, Wash.
Wright-Dickinson Hotel Co., Props.

HOTEL RAMAPO

Corner 14th and Washington
New Hotel, Elegantly Furnished.
Rates \$1 and Up
SPECIAL RATES FOR PERMANENTS.
European Plan.
Take any car at Depot and transfer at Washington St.
M. E. FOLEY, PROPRIETOR.

\$10,000 SET ASIDE BY CITY FOR POOR

Council Passes Ordinance to Provide Work for Needy Fathers of Families.

DESTITUTE STORM MAYOR

Rushlight Signs Act Immediately. County Also to Appropriate Funds for Relief—Road Builders to Get \$2 a Day.

St. Johns Ferry Bids Opened.

Bids for building of the St. Johns ferry, to operate between that city and Claremont, were yesterday opened by the County Court. They were as follows: Hull and cabin—St. Johns Shipbuilding Company, \$17,375; Portland Shipbuilding Company, \$13,350; Boiler—Portland Boiler Works, \$4150; Standard Boiler Works, \$4455; Machinery and equipment—St. Johns Iron Works, \$8580; Albina Engine & Machine Works, \$8153; Phoenix Iron Works, \$7900; Western Foundry & Machine Works, \$5955; Nelson & Uden Company, \$8165. The bids were referred to W. H. Phillips, engineer, and Matthew Welch, county inspector of boats. They will report as to the responsibility of the bidders. The county refused to purchase the present ferry, owned by the St. Johns Transportation Company. It was reported upon adversely by Mr. Welch.

Betas Are Hosts.

Members of the Oregon chapter of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity entertained a party of their school friends of this city at a dinner at the Portland Commercial Club last night. The entertainment at the Commercial Club was followed by a hostess party at the Orpheum. Guests present were: Joe Sheahan, H. T. McCulloch, William Burgard, Robert Krohn, Jr., Norrly D. Smith, Andrew Koerner, Don Stoppensbach, Frank Beach, J. W. Read, C. Frank Shearer and Lester Soden. Members and alumni of the Beta Theta Pi who attended were H. J. Broughton, H. M. Stine, C. E. McCulloch, M. P. Ogden, F. F. Sullivan, Don Rice, H. J. Warner, J. W. Cary, Hermann Oberstouffer, by Burgh, Lloyd Hardwig, I. G. Brooks, Dale Chessman, Boyce Penton, Waldo P. Miller and Lloyd Barzee.

County Outlines Work.

Work, as outlined by the County Court, is as follows: 15 men near the Linton quarry, grubbing and breaking rock at \$1 a day and board; eight men at the rock quarry in the Taylor Ferry district removing dirt from the rock above the rock face at \$1.50 a day and board; 25 men at the Multnomah Farm clearing land at \$1 a day and board; 30 men at Rocky Point breaking rock at \$1 a day and board. The county appropriation probably will amount to as much or more than the city appropriation. It is figured that the city and county will both get value received for the money expended and will furnish relief to hundreds of families.

Mayor to Rush Aid.

The Mayor said there was no need of delaying the beginning of work. "I intend to cut out as much of the red-tape as possible," said the Mayor, "and get the men busy. There is actual need. I want the needy to have two days' work this week and continue the labor next week and as long after that as possible. The men who have been in my office for all winter, when I was mayor, and six children appear in my office and ask for work at small wages. I do not consider that he is an idler or unwilling to work. If I had any money and tramps who are trying to get work they have not been in my office. I do not believe in extending charity to any able-bodied man, but there is a big difference when a man with a large family proves to you he cannot get work and is willing to do anything to give his family food, clothing and warmth.

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