

PROBE OF ALLEGED ICE TRUST STARTED

Commissioner Tells City Attorney to Investigate Complaints.

PRICES ARE INCREASED

General Advance Causes Kick by Consumers - Combination to Regulate Trade Is Denied by Portland Companies.

"There is no ice trust," say officials of the various companies supplying ice to the people of Portland.

"The ice men are combining to restrain trade and to elevate prices," declare consumers to whom the price has been advanced in the last few weeks.

"I'll see if there is a trust," says City Attorney LaRoche, who started an investigation of the alleged monopoly yesterday.

It is admitted by dealers, and known by consumers that the price of ice has gone up since the first of the month.

The advance is at the rate of about 15 cents a 100 pounds.

But the ice men declare that the advance is not due to a combination or to the existence of a monopoly.

"It is nothing but the natural outgrowth of the present industrial situation," they say. Then they point to the fact that for the last six or seven years the price of ice has remained stationary while the cost of production has constantly increased.

Consumers who use ice every Summer for ordinary domestic purposes heretofore have paid at the rate of 50 cents a 100 pounds. Now the price is 65 cents.

Restaurants Pay More.

Saloons, restaurants and other users of large lots who have been paying 25 cents now will pay 50 cents.

Although the ice men declare the general advance is not due to a combination, it is known that the price was raised at all ice depots about the same time.

People who sought relief from the higher rates by quitting one ice dealer to buy from another found that they were only swapping horses while crossing a stream. The price was found the same.

One man in Irvington is reported to have quit his ice man, thinking he would deal with his competitor. The next morning the same man delivered the ice. The Irvington man discovered that the company that he had quit was employed by the other company to make its deliveries.

"I can't beat that game," he sighed, and joined with others in an appeal at the City Hall.

Statute of Jurisdiction Determined.

City Attorney LaRoche started an investigation yesterday. He will seek to determine whether or not the city has any power to prevent the forming of a trust or combine to control the price of any commodity.

The investigation has been requested by City Commissioner Bigelow following receipt of complaints to the effect that ice men of the city have formed a combination to regulate the price, terms of delivery and other conditions pertaining to the sale of ice in Portland.

This is the first time the question of trusts and combinations has come up under the present form of government. City Attorney LaRoche reported that he was unable to give an answer offhand. He agreed, however, to make a thorough investigation and report as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Bigelow said he had heard about the ice men combination report from a number of different sources and believes the city should, if possible, take strenuous action at once to break up the alleged proposition. He says, he believes, if the city charter does not give the Council the power to take a hand it may be possible for the Council to pass an ordinance for some other body of the government or the Federal Government.

Strenuous Action Recommended.

In his letter to City Attorney LaRoche, Mr. Bigelow says:

"Complaint has come to me that there has been formed, in the city, a combination to restrain trade and to regulate the price of delivery and other conditions pertaining to the sale of ice. Kindly advise whether there is an ordinance covering combinations of this kind, and whether it is possible to reach such combinations, operating towards the restraint of trade. If conditions are reported, and we have an ordinance which covers such case, it is my opinion that strenuous action should be taken at once."

PROJECT IS BIG ASSET

ENGINEER SAYS TUMALO WORK IS BENEFIT TO PORTLAND.

State's First Undertaking of Kind to Support 2000 Persons—Land for Sale at \$38 to \$40 an Acre.

The Tumalo irrigation project is destined to prove a valuable asset to Portland as well as the people of Laidlaw and the adjacent territory in Central Oregon, according to O. Laurgaard, engineer of the project, who is staying at the Oregon Hotel while he is in Portland arranging some details with contractors.

"Practically all the supplies have been bought from Portland houses," he said yesterday. "From 300 to 400 men will have been employed on the project for a year and a half when it is completed. It will support about 2000 persons living on ranches when the job is done, and it will be a perpetual asset to Portland. Settlers will have to pay from \$38 to \$40 an acre for the land, one-tenth cash and the balance in 10 years, and if they cultivate one-third of their land each year for the first three years, the payments for those years may be deferred to allow them to put their money into stock and implements when they need them most."

"An appropriation of \$450,000 was made by the last Legislature to irrigate land in Central Oregon about seven and a half miles from Bend. It was to straighten up the old Columbia Southern project.

"Since last July there has been new hope and prosperity in that country," said Mr. Laurgaard. "The water rights have been straightened up and the people feel vastly encouraged. By the way, it is the only project of its kind in the United States that is being built with state money."

"To date we have spent about \$260,000 of the appropriation and we have completed seven and a half miles of the feed canal from Tumalo Creek to the reservoir. The feed canal is of

permanent construction, concrete-lined and with concrete structures, that is, drops, turnouts, weirs and diversion-gates, besides 6500 lineal feet of metal flume manufactured by a Portland concern. The cement used is furnished by a Portland concern, which was awarded the contract after four companies which had made the same price had submitted their cement for a test.

"We are working on the two dams which will form the Tumalo reservoir, in connection with which we have installed a large air-compressor plant, a steam-shovel outfit with two dozen two-yard dump wagons, a complete concreting plant and several large pumping plants. It is contemplated to build the Tumalo dam by an earth-fill, placed by steam shovel and dump trucks, and finished by hydraulic method, with strongly reinforced concrete covering. The outward work will consist of a tunnel through solid rock, and this also will be lined with concrete.

"Several hundred miles of small ditches and laterals will be built in the next few months. The state reclamation act did not go into effect till July, 1913, and in 15 months from the time of starting the project will have been

VISITOR FROM NORWAY WILL LECTURE.



Rev. Nels Bolt.

Rev. Nels Bolt, from Hamar, Norway, will lecture at the First Norwegian Danish M. E. Church, Hoyt and Eighteenth streets, this evening and Sunday morning at 8 o'clock. He also will be at the Second Church, Vancouver avenue and Skidmore street, on Sunday morning and Sunday night. Rev. Mr. Bolt has been in America about six months studying the Sunday school and young people's work in the churches here. His lecture is illustrated by 130 lantern slides, taking his audiences through picturesque Norway from the capital city to the north cape, where the midnight sun shines. The admission is free.

completed. It will irrigate this year from 5000 to 7000 acres. The land probably will be opened for sale this Summer or Fall.

"The Desert Land Board has been absolutely a unit when it came to a question of the organization for the project. All the engineers and superintendents are men of experience in reclamation work."

FILIPINOS UNFIT IS SAID

"SELF GOVERNMENT CALAMITOUS," IS F. W. TAYLOR'S IDEA.

People Are Now Happy and Content, but Would Be Rent by Politicians, if Unrestrained, He Says.

"It would be a calamity to turn the Philippine government over to the natives," says Frederick William Taylor, who has just returned from the islands, where, for more than two years, he served as director of agriculture.

Taylor says that few people in the Philippines really want the American Government to withdraw. The only elements demanding it, he thinks, are those natives who hope to be elected to office.

"I am confident," he says, "that by the time Governor Harrison is there a year he will be convinced that it is folly to attempt an early withdrawal by the United States in order that the Filipinos may govern themselves.

"The fact is, they cannot govern themselves. Even if they could, which fraction of them would govern? The native Filipinos are split up into more parties than are the people of Mexico. Each would want to be supreme. All are now well satisfied."

Mr. Taylor, who formerly lived in Denver, declares that the Philippine people have confidence in Governor Harrison and the Wilson Administration.

Many large industrial and commercial concerns, however, are timid about making further investments. They fear that the impulsive intention of Governor Harrison to turn over the government will jeopardize their interests.

HOME INDUSTRY CONTEST FOR APRIL CLOSURES TODAY.

All essays in The Oregonian's Home Industry contest for April must be in today to be admitted to the contest for this month.

Essays have been coming in rapidly and indications are that the contest for April will be keener than for any previous month. The young essayists advance a great number of logical reasons why, "all things being equal, Oregon people should do all their buying from Oregon manufacturers."

Any boy or girl in Oregon under 18 years of age may enter the contest. The prizes each month are: First, \$5; second, \$2, and three prizes of \$1 each.

New Cars in Shasta Limited.

Brand new all-steel parlor cars, specially built and equipped with the latest and most approved conveniences, are the newest addition to the justly famous Shasta Limited service. You will be delighted with their distinctive appointments and luxurious comforts. Enjoy the pleasure they afford at your first opportunity. Leave Portland and Union depot 3 P. M. every day for Tacoma and Seattle. Reservations made at either the depot or O. W. R. & N. city ticket office, Third and Washington streets. Both phones.—Adv.

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\$3.50 Silk Petticoats \$1.95

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EXTRA War Declared On Dresses EXTRA

Absolutely Nothing Can Stop the Throngs of Eager Buyers Attending This Great

Closing Out Sale Women's and Misses' Dresses

Dresses for every occasion—Dresses for afternoon—Dresses for evening wear—Dresses for street—Dresses for everybody. Hardly any two in stock alike—beautiful creations, representing the last word of Dame Fashion by the most exclusive designers on earth—At Prices Lower Than the Actual Cost to Make Them.

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Extraordinary Price Reductions All Down the Line on Suits, Coats, Skirts

Every Garment in House Reduced From 33 1/3% to 50% Less Than Regular Prices

125 New Silk Suits  
Just arrived from one of the foremost manufacturers in American mode to sell at \$60.00 and \$75.00. Specially priced for Fri-Saturday and Saturday at \$29.85 and \$39.85  
See window display of these beautiful creations.

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Representing the choicest of the highest priced Suits in stock—Suits that were made to retail at from \$60.00 to \$75.00. Your choice \$29.85 of the lot at  
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Corner Sixth and Alder Streets, Opposite Oregonian Building

ONE QUEEN WITHDRAWS

MISS HAZEL GALLAGHER TOO ILL TO REMAIN IN RACE.

Candidates Pour in Great Blocks of Votes Upon Force of Much Overworked Clerks.

With only a little more than three weeks left before the close of the Rose Festival's queen election and advertising tour contest, the candidates who have been briskly competing for the

high places on the official tally are now in the thick of the battle.

Many thousands of votes poured into the Festival headquarters yesterday afternoon, and the tour manager and his clerical force are working like beavers to keep up with the count and get out another tally today.

Miss Hazel Gallagher, candidate of the Douglas County Association, withdrew from the contest yesterday morning on account of serious illness. Miss Gallagher had strong support.

Secretary Currey, of the Festival Association, is in receipt of many letters from various "boosting" organizations of the different cities along the route of the Festival special car's itinerary inquiring as to dates of arrival at these points.

Miss Alice Husby, candidate of the

Made-in-Oregon Club and the Electric Club of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, will be the guest of the Manufacturers' Association at the lunch in the Commercial Club today.

Revival Draws Crowds.

RAINIER, Or., April 23.—(Special.)—Dr. J. W. McDougall and Rev. Alfred Bates are holding successful meetings at the Methodist Episcopal Church here. There will be no meeting on Saturday evening, but services will be held Sunday at 11 A. M. and at 7:30 P. M.

Pendleton Woman Disappears.

PENDELTON, Or., April 23.—(Special.)—Mrs. Mildred McFadden, former proprietress of the New Grand Hotel in

this city, who was convicted of larceny in the Circuit Court last Saturday, failed to appear today to plead. Her bonds of \$300 were immediately declared forfeited and a bench warrant was issued for her arrest.

Boys Are Pulled From Train.

OREGON CITY, Or., April 23.—(Special.)—Two unidentified boys from Portland were taken from the Southern

Pacific train tonight by the police department of Woodburn upon information furnished by Dr. W. S. Eddy to the police department here. He saw the boys lodged on the roof of the train as it passed through Oregon City. The boys will be returned to Portland tomorrow.

Wooden spoons are almost the only kind used by the peasant class of Russia, which forms 77 per cent of the entire population.

Paint and Prosperity

Go hand in hand. Things look brighter for their presence. Get your share of both today and tomorrow by taking advantage of the

Special Paint and Varnish Sale

at the Big Paint Store or any of our Thirty-two District Dealers.

House and Porch Paint Special \$1.62 Gallon

Shingle and Roof Stain Special 65c Gallon

Regular price \$2.25 gallon. Above the standard in quality. Uniform in color. In 42 shades.

Creosote stain—the quality that sells regularly for \$1.10 gallon. Comes in the standard shades.

Floor Paint Special \$1.37 Gallon

Regular \$1.75 gallon grade. Dries hard over night. In seven of the most wanted shades.

Door Varnish Special 50c Pint

Regular price 85c quart. Heaver Brand for outside doors. Will make them look like new. A pint will easily coat the standard size door. Regular price 65c pint.

Floor Varnish Special 55c Quart

Regular price 85c quart. Heaver Brand Varnish. Dries hard over night. For your hardwood floors and as a final finish over your floor paint.

The regular 50c quart grade. A quart is sufficient for two coats on the average floor where rugs are used. Dries hard over night.

Fisher, Thorsen & Co. Front and Morrison The Big Paint Store

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146 Fourth Street, Begins Tomorrow Morning

Your Last Chance

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