

FIRE PROBE BEGUN BY UNDERWRITERS

On Findings Depends Rise in Insurance for Oregon, Declares Agent.

ARSON ISSUE IS EVADED

Investigation to Be Most Careful, Although Attitude as to Possibility of Incendiarism Is Being Withheld.

Fire insurance companies operating in Portland are viewing with concern the great number of fires that in the last few months have caused such heavy losses in the city.

A committee from the Underwriters' Equitable Rating Bureau, the organization having jurisdiction over fire underwriters in Oregon, is now engaged in a most careful investigation to determine the origin of recent fires.

The fire insurance companies will not even say that they have suspicions of incendiarism, but the investigation is to be most careful. It is not denied, as asserted by insurance Commissioner Harvey Wells recently, that there is a possibility that the underwriters, whose losses have been heavy, may decide an increase in insurance rates is necessary.

Companies Lose in 1914. "The fire insurance companies lost money in 1914," said John B. Coleman, general agent of the Home Insurance Company, and president of the Underwriters' Equitable Rating Bureau.

"Whether a committee of California insurance men will raise the issue today at the dedication ceremony of the new Cello Canal at Cello, H. S. Fargo, department commander, will make the presentation address.

Mr. Coleman said that for the past seven years there has been a constant pressure and hammering down of rates here. "The reduction in rates in the past five years in Portland aggregates 27 to 28 per cent," he explained.

"There is no question," continued Mr. Coleman, "that Portland is in an insupportable condition, speaking from the point of view of the citizens, business men and homeowners want to prevent a possible rate increase it is up to them to co-operate with the fire marshal in his endeavors to better conditions.

"Fire Marshal Stevens is an energetic and able official, and we are heartily behind him in his efforts. It is now up to the citizens to co-operate instead of hampering him.

to the road bonding election of April 14, according to correspondence which was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners yesterday.

Samuel C. Kerr, as a member of the Portland Hunt Club, wrote Mr. Yeon April 8, asking if the proposed improvements contemplated a bridge path along Canyon road.

Mr. Yeon did not reply until April 19, five days after the election was held. In this letter he said the bridge path was under consideration.

"I purposely delayed answering your letter," said Mr. Yeon, "because of the fact that if the bridge path was not authorized there would be no vote coming from you. In view of the importance to Multnomah County of the proposed paving of 70 miles of highway, I did not feel justified in doing any trading to get any votes."

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Memorandum Indicates Intention to Bequeath All Property to Widow and Children, in Declaration.

An estate worth \$985,000 was left by Thomas Scott Brooke, who plunged to his death April 1 from the second floor of his residence at 722 Flanders street. A petition for letters of administration, which fixed the value of the property, was filed in County Clerk Coffey's office yesterday.

Mr. Brooke left no will, but the petition says a memorandum was found which evidently had been intended for a will. The memorandum was not properly witnessed nor dated, so it was not presented to the court as a will, says the petition. It bequeathed the entire property to the widow and two small children. The petition seeks to carry out the wishes of Mr. Brooke as expressed in the memorandum.

The widow, Christine M. Brooke, asks that she, with C. P. Adams and Frank Kierman, be appointed administrators of the estate. The property, says the petition, is of such character that Mrs. Brooke does not want to undertake its administration alone.

CONGRESS IS NOTED

Mothers' Meeting, May 12-16; Interests Educators.

FEDERAL BUREAU HELPS

Notices Call Attention to Conferences Over Country on Way to National Assembly Here--Many Speakers to Be Heard.

The attention of educators all over the country is being called to the convention of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations which will convene in Portland May 12 to 16.

The schedule for the conferences is as follows: St. Paul, Minn., May 3-4; Bismarck, N. D., May 5-8; Butte, Mont., May 7; Helena, Mont., May 8-9; Seattle, Wash., May 11; Portland, May 12-16; San Francisco, May 18-20.

Mayor and Mrs. Albee Hosts. At 4 o'clock the National officers and delegates will be entertained at a tea in the home of Mayor and Mrs. H. R. Albee.

For the closing session Friday night Mrs. Jane Burns Albert will give the address of welcome. The speakers will be Mrs. William Thacher of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. A. King Wilson, Superintendent Alder-Administration, Mrs. Milton P. Higgins of Worcester, Mass., and Mrs. Fred Dick, Mrs. Thomas Carlock Burke will have charge of the music for the convocation.

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Officers Arrive Today. Military training in the use of the big coast defense guns and instruction along various other lines of the military science will be given the representatives of the coast artillery companies of the state who are attending the officers' camp of instruction to be held at Fort Stevens May 5 to 10.

Had glasses not been prescribed the squint would have become permanent and the sight of the eye practically useless.

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Bathrobe Blankets at \$1.97. Bordered With Tassel and Frogs. Our Usual Price Is \$3.25. Only 10 in the lot. Small conventional designs, grey and white and navy and white combinations. Size 72x90.

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PAJAMAS, SPECIAL AT 98c. Striped and figured percales and plain or fancy woven soisettes, tans, blues, lavender and white. Low-cut or military collars, silk frog trimming.

PAJAMAS, SPECIAL AT \$1.29. Our Usual Price \$2.00 and \$2.50. Mercerized cloths in fancy weaves, white ground with handsome blue, black and lavender combination stripe effects. Low neck, silk frog trimming.

PAJAMAS AT \$1.69. Our Usual Price \$3.50. Specially woven fabrics, including crepe cords and crystal cloth, satin striped and fancy self-figured effects, blues, white, lavender, tans and pinks. Low neck, pearl buttons and silk frog trimming.

Boys' Wool Suits. Vestee, Middy, Dombey Styles. \$5. Serge in navy blue or white—fancy materials in tans, browns and grays—very pleasing and attractive combinations. Splendidly tailored Suits.

For Today We Have a Line of Women's Suits at \$21.85. Smart Semi-Tailored Models Also the Severely Plain Models.

Six New Specials for Today in Our Anniversary Sale of Women's Dainty High Grade Undermuslins. This list of price brevities serves merely as hints of the splendid liberality of stocks and prices.

Today Only! Wash Needs Are Reduced. Equip Your Laundry at Anniversary Sale Prices! \$1.25 WASH BOILERS, COPPER BOTTOMS, RED. TO. 99c.

VETERANS WHO WILL TAKE PART IN CELLO FETE.



Left, T. E. Hills and R. C. Marker. T. E. Hills, post department commander, and R. C. Marker, aide and chief of staff, Department of Oregon, Grand Army of the Republic, will raise the flag today at the dedication ceremony of the new Cello Canal at Cello, H. S. Fargo, department commander, will make the presentation address.

\$985,000 ESTATE LEFT

NO WILL OF T. SCOTT BROOKE FOUND, PETITION SAYS.

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TRADE FOR VOTES REFUSED. Mr. Yeon Delays Reply to Club Because of Election Intimidation.

John B. Yeon, County Roadmaster, refused to "trade for votes" previous

THOMPSON OPTICAL INSTITUTE. 209-10-11 Corbett Bldg., 5th & Mor.

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