

MR. DALY PLANS TO IGNORE JUNE VOTE

Commissioner Avers He Will Meter City Anyway, Holding Scheme Not Issue.

AUTHORITY IS CLAIMED

Argument Only 5000 Devices Are to Be Voted on Discredited by Official, Who Calls Matter Previously Decided.

Proponents of the Daly water meter scheme have been making the argument that the issue involved in the water meter referendum to be voted on June 7 is the purchase of 5000 meters to cost \$39,000 and not the purchase of 42,000 meters to cost \$52,000.

Commissioner Daly made the positive and unqualified statement yesterday that the 5000 meters to be voted on is merely the first installment of the ultimate city-wide system. He declares that he intends to meter the entire city as rapidly as possible. He makes the unqualified statement that a city-wide meter system, a meter on every house in Portland, is his unalterable policy.

Meters Promised Anyway.
Furthermore, Mr. Daly says he proposes to meter the city regardless of the vote of the people in June. He says that on three different occasions the voters have authorized the purchase and installation of meters and he does not consider that the withdrawal of that authorization is involved in the referendum measure to be voted upon in June.

The three measures voted on were in reality one measure and the meter proposition was incidental to the vital issue of constructing a new pipeline. In 1907 the voters adopted a charter amendment authorizing the issuance of \$5,000,000 in bonds for the construction of an additional pipeline, the purchase of land and the purchase of meters. The pipeline was the real issue.

Amendment is Amended.
In 1909 the voters amended this amendment by providing that water mains should be constructed on the assessment plan, the same as sewers or street paving. In 1910 the assessment feature of the proposition was taken out by the voters.

These are Commissioner Daly's "three separate" authorizations for his city-wide meter assessment. Before the people was the vital one of constructing an additional pipeline. Meters were incidental. In spite of this, Mr. Daly stands for a city-wide meter in June if they vote to stop the first move in the general scheme to meter the city. Mr. Daly says the council will have authority to purchase meters in smaller quantities and go ahead with the city-wide meter proposition.

Mr. Daly for Plan to Finish.
He says he stands for a city-wide meter policy first, last and all the time.

Mr. Daly says he does not interpret the measure which he has introduced as involving the right to meter the city. The rest of the City Council does. Mr. Daly bases his corollary on the technical grounds that it is a referendum vote against his measure to buy the first 5000 meters in the 42,000 he proposes to buy, and he argues that it does not withdraw the authorization which was in the original question in 1907. His grounds are purely technical. At no time has there been any question about Mr. Daly's intentions regarding a city-wide meter system. Statements to the effect that the issue at the June election involves 5000 meters and not 42,000 meters are misleading and without justification.

METER READING PLAN FAILURE

Research Bureau Finds Portland System Invites Guessing.

In a report printed by the New York Bureau of Municipal Research, after an investigation of the Water Department in Portland, statements are made upon the important issue of the possibilities for errors in meter reading. The report is based on actual observations of the Bureau in Portland and in other cities. The report reads:

When an inspector goes out to read a city's meter—that is, when he goes out to learn the amount of water for which the consumer is to be billed, he takes with him the reading of that meter for the previous month. Whenever this method is used the inspector is tempted to fill out the meter reading without actually going to the meter.

The system of itself invites—first, laziness, then inaccuracy and sometimes dishonesty on the part of inspectors. Supplied with the information which is now furnished to Portland's meter readers, a fair guesser could read all the meters in the City of Portland without moving out of his room and without giving dissatisfaction to consumers or arousing suspicion of the Water Board. Sometimes bad guessing by inspectors is corrected by better guessing, or by actual inspection and meter readings, and monthly bills jump up about 50, 100 and 200 per cent.

This condition should be corrected by requiring inspectors to turn in the actual reading of meters each month, to be posted and compared with the preceding month's readings by the meter clerk. It is claimed that a single man averages over 200 meter readings a day. Even after making allowance for the accessibility of meters, this raises at least a question as to the care with which the meter is read and recorded.

The qualifications of men provided by civil service for meter readers and inspectors have been criticized by officials in the water department. When we suggested the above method of preventing either random or systematic guesses where there should be actual readings, the officials' attitude was that Portland's meter readers could not make proper readings without having the preceding month's reading before them. This recalls the experience of many cities where only a small fraction, e. g., 10 out of 70, meter readers and inspectors actually were able to read a meter. A general test of Portland's readers has not been made, but is here suggested.

POLICE CAPTAIN CIRCLE ILL

Officer Faints While at Jail and Is Removed to Home.

Police Captain Circle fainted in the City Jail shortly before midnight Monday and is now ill at his home, 1428 Union Avenue North. Captain Circle had not been well for several days. Captain Circle had gone to the jail to hear the statements of two Chinamen to Immigration Commissioner Harbur. Suddenly he walked to the elevator and rang the bell. Just as the lift arrived Captain Circle collapsed. He was revived in the emergency hospital and later was removed to his home.

SPELLING BEE SATURDAY

Eighty Schools in Clarke County Expected to Enter Contest.

VANCOUVER, Wash., May 25.—(Special.)—The second annual spelling con-



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test of pupils of the public schools in Clarke County will be held in the Franklin School auditorium Saturday, beginning at 9 o'clock. There will be three grades, each to receive prizes: The fifth and sixth grades, the seventh and eighth grades and the high school grade.

In the county are 80 schools, and each school is entitled to send one speller to represent each of the three grades. The declamatory contest, an annual event, will be held in the Franklin School auditorium Friday night. The contestants will be from the grades and from the high schools.

COWS TO BE EXAMINED

Tests to Be Made of Dairies, and Movies to Show Conditions.

To test for tuberculosis a large percentage of the milk cows now furnishing milk to cities, State Veterinarian Lytle, in co-operation with the State Dairy and Food Commissioner, will put a man in the field in a few days. Commissioner Mickle announced yesterday. The Dairy and Food Commission already has a man who is making tests. He has visited Salem, Albany and Eugene and has been asked to examine 523 cows.

The work will be followed by an educational campaign in which movies will play an important part.

Firemen's Widow to Get Pension.

Mrs. F. B. Klose, widow of F. B. Klose, the fireman who shot himself last Friday, is to benefit by the fire-

men's relief and pension system to the extent of \$100 for funeral expenses and \$40 a month pension during the rest of her life, or until she marries again. The pension board has decided that Mrs. Klose is entitled to the relief inasmuch as her husband had contributed to the pension and relief fund and was a fireman in good standing.

AFRICAN CHURCH IS HOST

Many White Folk Attend Formal Opening of Parsonage.

The new parsonage and social rooms of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, at Larrabee and McMillen streets, were opened Sunday formally. The guests inspected the comfortable white residents of the community, as well as to colored persons from all parts of the city.

In addition to the new parsonage and social rooms, the congregation recently completed a substantial brick church building on the same lot. The quarters are comfortable. The recent financial campaign conducted by the congregation resulted in the collection of \$1144.18.

TWO ON MOTORCYCLE WED

Portland Pair and Witness Make Trip to Vancouver.

VANCOUVER, Wash., May 25.—(Special.)—Various kinds of vehicles are used by the hundreds of couples com-

ing to the Vancouver Gretna Green. But it is seldom that motorcycles are used. One couple, with the witness, came on motorcycles. They were Walter Hatfield and Miss Della Laird, both of Portland.

Others securing licenses to marry today were William Lake and Miss Elizabeth Stark, of Portland, who came in a taxicab; Heye Meyer, of Vancouver, and Miss Eva Livengood, of Cameron, Mo.; Oscar O. Anderson and Vessie Johnson, of Rainier, Or., and B. H. Owens and Miss Rosa M. Bowman, of Pendleton, Or., who said they would have ridden benches had the distance not been so great.

Carrier's Death Closes Postoffice.

OREGON CITY, May 25.—(Special.)—The postoffice here was closed for an hour today out of respect to E. M. Waldron, native of this county and for seven years a mail carrier, who died Saturday night. The funeral was held this afternoon from the Presbyterian church and interment was in the Odd-fellows' plot of the Mountain View cemetery. Mr. Waldron is survived by his wife and two children.

Carnival Crowd Orderly.
ROSEBURG, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—Although there were 10,000 people in attendance at the masked carnival held here Saturday night, only one arrest was made by the officers. No arrests were made on the previous day of the festival.

Mr. Sinnott to Speak at Canby.

HOOD RIVER, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—Representative N. J. Sinnott, of

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The Dalles, has accepted an invitation of Canby Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and will deliver the Memorial address at Idlewild Cemetery next Monday. On Sunday morning the Memorial sermon will be preached by Rev. W. B. Young, pastor of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.

Man With Whisky Found Dead.
VANCOUVER, Wash., May 25.—(Special.)—Thomas Tobin, aged 50, who made a trip from here to Crawford with a bottle of whisky in his pocket, was found dead under a tree, having apparently fallen asleep after emptying the flask.



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