

FIRE INSURANCE CUT DUE, NO RISE, IS VIEW

City Reports 50 Per Cent Drop
in Number of Blazes in
1915 From 1914.

CREDIT GIVEN CAMPAIGN

Decrease in Calls Noted Each Month
as Compared With Corresponding
Period of Previous Year—Record
Lowest Since 1910.

With nearly a 50 per cent decrease
in the number of fires in Portland during
1915 as compared with 1914 and an
estimated decrease of 20 or 40 per cent
in the fire losses, fire officials of the
city are at a loss to know why the
Equitable Fire Rating Bureau should
have put through the recent increase
in fire insurance rates.

It is their opinion that rates should
have been decreased rather than in-
creased.

Traceable directly to a vigorous cam-
paign conducted by Fire Marshal Stev-
ens and the 105 deputy fire marshals
in the various fire stations, Portland's
fire alarms and fire losses have been
curbed to the lowest point in years.

Each month since the work was
started has showed a decrease in the
number of fire alarms and consequently
less danger of loss to the fire in-
surance companies.

Fires Are Few in 1915.
Study of a table giving the fire
alarms by months during the last 10
years shows that during 1915, there
have been fewer than during any year
since 1910. The work of the fire pre-
vention committee got well under way
about February 1, 1915, and from that
time the number of alarms has been
steadily decreasing. Every month
since then has shown a decrease from
the corresponding month of 1914.

Since 1912 the number of alarms had
been increasing rapidly almost month
by month until the beginning of the
fire prevention campaign, when the
table was revised.

In 1912 there were 1284 fires; 1913
had 1393, 1914 records 1949 and in 1915,
exclusive of the three last days of the
year, there were 1045.

The fire losses during 1914 totaled
\$1,782,481 and insurance to the extent
of \$1,520,141 was paid. During the
first six months of 1915 the total
losses were \$1,235,319. During the first
six months of 1915 the losses aggre-
gated \$918,248.88. That included the
months from December 1, 1914, to June
1, 1915, that being the first six months
of the city's fiscal year. The figures
for 1914 are for the corresponding
months of 1915 and 1914.

The last six months of 1915 have not
been tabulated as yet, but it is said
they will be far under the first six
months. It is estimated by Fire Mar-
shal Stevens that the total losses for
1915 will be about \$1,000,000, which
will be \$782,000 less than the losses
for 1914.

Following is a table showing the fire
alarms by months since 1912:

	1912	1913	1914	1915
January	101	143	145	88
February	122	155	171	92
March	122	155	171	92
April	122	155	171	92
May	122	155	171	92
June	122	155	171	92
July	122	155	171	92
August	122	155	171	92
September	122	155	171	92
October	122	155	171	92
November	122	155	171	92
December	122	155	171	92
Totals	1284	1393	1949	1045

*To December 29.

DESPOILER IS JAILED

MAN GETS 90 DAYS FOR STEALING
WOMAN'S PURSE FROM ROOM.

Street Beggar Hauls Up Victim for \$50.

Robbery of Home Is Reported.

Walter Goes Behind Bars.

Alma Nelson entertained Carl V.
Schmitt in her room in a downtown
building on Christmas night. He re-
sulted by the removal of her pocket-
book as he went out, she told the
court yesterday morning, and Judge
Stevens sentenced Schmitt to 90 days
for theft.

"It was all the money I had," she
told the court yesterday morning, "and
I have a sick girl in the hospital."

The woman admitted that some of
Schmitt's money had gone to help make
up the \$32 contained in the pocketbook.
Mrs. M. C. Pearson, of 214 Sixth
street, asserts that she was robbed of
\$40 when she went out to a man who
accused her for food on the street
Tuesday night.

John E. Roder, 4221 Sixty-fifth ave-
nue Southeast, reported the theft of \$10
from his home Tuesday night.

A. H. Lilly, known to the prisoners
as the man who brings the food, ate
his usual yesterday morning from be-
hind the bars with the others because
he had made too much drunken noise
at a first and Sheridan rooming-house.
He was fined \$5.

OFFER IS UNSATISFACTORY

City Will Not Pay \$120,000 for St.
Johns Water Plant.

City Commissioner Daly and City At-
torney La Roche were delegated by the
city council yesterday to negotiate
with the St. Johns Water & Light-
ing Company for the purchase by the city
of the water system owned by the com-
pany in St. Johns. They were appointed
after the council decided that the com-
pany's offer to sell the plant for \$120,-
000 was unsatisfactory.

Residents of St. Johns appeared be-
fore the Council yesterday and urged
haste in getting affairs settled so a
lower water rate can be provided for
the district. Mr. Daly and Mr. La
Roche will confer with officials of the
company within a few days.

John W. Buehler's Funeral Is Held.

Funeral services for John W. Bueh-
ler were held Tuesday at 2:30 o'clock
at Finley's chapel, Montgomery at
Fifth street. The services were con-
ducted by Rev. F. D. Findley. George
Raymond Leach sang "Rock of Ages,"
"Pass to Pass" and "Amen in Jesus."
Mr. Buehler was a Mason, and was a
past officer of Oriental Consistory, Ma-
dison Temple, Washington Royal Arch
Masonic, Apollo Commandery, Knights
Templar and St. Johns Society of Chi-
cago, Ill., and he was a member of
St. C. (Irish) Lodge, Ancient Free and
Accepted Masons. Concluding services
were held at the Portland Crematorium
by the Masons.

New 1916 Hunting and Fishing
Licenses should be secured before
Saturday—Issued in Sporting
Goods Store—Basement Balcony.

Direct access to our Basement
Cafeteria and Dairy Lunch by
the Sixth and Alder streets stairs.
Good foods, quick service, low
prices—Basement, Sixth Street.

Meier & Frank Co.
THE QUALITY STORE OF PORTLAND
Fifth, Sixth, Morrison, Alder Sts.

Have music in the home New
Year's—Victrolas, Columbias and
Edison Diamond Disc—Largest
stock of machines and records—
Easiest terms—Basement Balcony

Permits for visiting the Obser-
vation Tower may be secured at
the Accommodation Bureau, Base-
ment Balcony—Special Guide.

Cleanup Week Brings Great Bargain-Giving!

For Thrifty Folks Who Believe, "To Save Money Is to Make Money."

Stunning Coats At Cleanup Week Prices



—Practically the whole coat
season is ahead of you—the
Wintry days of January, Feb-
ruary and March, when every
woman needs a warm top-
coat.

—The season's smartest coats
now at cleanup prices. Beau-
tiful velours, plushes, broad-
cloths, gabardines, serges,
tweeds, etc. Many of them
fur trimmed.

At \$ 5.95—our \$10.00 Coats.
At \$ 7.95—our \$12.50 to \$15 Coats.
At \$11.45—our \$17.50 Coats.
At \$14.95—our \$19.00 Coats.
At \$16.95—our \$20 to \$25 Coats.

Dresses Reduced

At \$ 5.85—our \$ 7.50 Dresses.
At \$ 8.85—our \$10.00 Dresses.
At \$12.45—our \$20.00 Dresses.
At \$16.85—our \$24.50 Dresses.
At \$19.65—our \$30.00 Dresses.

—Fourth Floor, Fifth Street.—Order by Mail



Welworth Blouses \$2

One Model as
Illustrated

—This week's blouses are
unusually smart—even for
these splendid Welworths.

—One style of crepe de chine,
pink or yellow, with smart vest
and collar of white crepe de
chine, set in with hemstitching.
Another model of white China
silk, with revers and collar,
trimmed with large pearl but-
tons.

—On sale Thursday only—at \$2.
—Fourth Floor, Central.
—Mail Orders Filled

Stamped Undermuslins In a Cleanup Sale!

69c for 89c Combinations and Camisoles

—The daintiest of underwear—made up, stamped, ready
to be embroidered—Camisoles and envelope combinations,
of sheer batiste and fine lingerie cloth. Stamped in
dainty designs, many lace trimmed.

25c for 50c to \$1 Pillow Tops

—Cushion tops of linen, burlap and poplin, stamped in
dainty conventional and floral designs. Many styles and
shapes are included—in a cleanup—at 25c.

—Second Floor, Sixth Street.

Smart Velvet Hats, \$3.50

A Cleanup of \$5 to \$9 Hats

—Clever styles in many sizes and shapes. With flower, wing and
fur and ostrich trimming. Unusually smart for midwinter wear!

\$1.95 for \$3.50 to \$5 Hats

—All our prettiest \$3.50 to \$5.00 hats, in scores of becoming styles,
small toques, large and medium sailors—for cleanup at \$1.95.

75c for \$2 to \$3.50 Shapes

—Splendid velvet shapes in all the wanted sizes and styles. Cleanup
special, 75c.

—Fourth Floor, Sixth Street.



All Those Who Dance

—and their name is legion—are more concerned
about their dancing slippers this season than ever
before. Never have skirts been more saucily short
and flaring—and never have dainty slippers been
more imperative.

The New Coronation Beaded Pump in Satin or Kid Is Here

—Exquisitely dainty and artistic. A dove-gray suede is cut
in fancy openwork design from instep to toe, and beautifully
hand beaded in cut steel. Black satins are beaded in steel or
jet. Bronze kids are hand beaded in self tones and dainty
brocades are combined with kid of delicate tones.

—Priced at \$3 for a smart satin slipper to \$12 for the new
Galt dancing boot.

—Third Floor, Fifth Street.

"Willamette" Rotary Sewing Machine \$32.50



—Any one of the hundreds of
users of Willamette Rotary Ma-
chines in Portland will tell you
that it is the lightest, easiest,
most desirable of all machines.

No Shuttle to Vibrate

—The round bobbin can be
wound automatically while you
sew. Light and easy to operate.
Golden oak with automatic drop
head—\$32.50.

—Investigate the easy club payment plan—\$1 sends a Willamette
Rotary to your home, and 50c a week pays for it.

—Sixth Floor, Fifth Street.

Women's Linen Kerchiefs 18c

Broken Lines 35c
Initials

—5000 of them—all pure
linen and hand embroid-
ered!

—Some pure white, many with
colored initials and embroidery.
—Wide assortment of styles.

—Every initial here, but not in
each style.

—Cleanup special at 18c each,
or 3 for 50c.

—None sent C. O. D.—No tele-
phone orders.

—Main Floor, Fifth Street.

\$1.39 for \$1.75 Juno Dress Forms

—Now with ev-
erybody busy
sewing for Win-
ter parties and
festivities, these
dress forms will
prove most timely
aids.

—Juno forms are
splendidly pro-
portioned, with
long hips, so that
skirts may be
draped over them.

—Cleanup Thurs-
day at \$1.39.

\$2 Stands
\$1.79

—A adjustable
stands, for dress forms, raised
or lowered as desired in fitting

—specially priced for Thursday
at \$1.79.

—Second Floor, Fifth Street.

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Furnishing Goods Cleanup

A RESPONSE yesterday to these extraordinary sav-
ings that compared with the Christmas throngs of
last week. You'll not wonder, when you read these prices,
selected at random from the scores of phenomenal cleanup
offerings.

Silk Shirts, \$2.49—Usually \$5

—Exclusive pure silk shirts in smartest patterns.

95c for \$1.50 and \$2 Shirts

—All brands, excepting Manhattan. Patterns of every description. Big
tables filled with them, ranged in sizes for easy choosing.

55c for "Paragon \$1 Special" Shirts

—All fresh and new—every shirt bears the genuine "Paragon \$1 Special"
Label.

Pure Thread Silk Socks for 25c

—An excellent quality in black and colors. The kind usually sold at 50c.

High-Grade Sweaters for \$2.95

—A Cleanup of \$5, \$6, and some \$7 Sweaters. Broken lines, but all sizes
and colors in the lot, for men and women.

98c for Munsing Union Suits

—Men's genuine Munsing Union
Suits, fine Egyptian cotton, me-
dium weight. All sizes. Extra
special at 98c.

\$1.89 for Men's \$2.50 to \$3.50 Undwr.

—Broken lines and samples of
high-grade worsted union suits.
Wright's, Newton and Spring-
tex makes.

79c for Staple \$1 Union Suits

—Men's warm, fleece-lined cot-
ton union suits in natural gray
and ecru. For the Cleanup sale
today, 79c.

—Just Inside Morrison Entrance.—Order by Mail.

The Big Clothing Opportunity



WE believe our
Men's and Boys'
Clothing stores have
seen the greatest
growth the last few
years of any in Portland.
Greatest value, day-in-
and-day-out, is the policy
which has put this busi-
ness forward so phenom-
enally.

—Now we make reduc-
tions like these to re-adjust
our stocks; it means value-
giving unrivaled.

—One lot of our \$25 Suits and Overcoats \$17.85

—One lot of our \$30-\$35 Suits and Overcoats \$21.85

Boys' Wool Surface Raincoats, \$4.65

—A splendid, all-service coat, for cold and rain. Wool surface, with rainproof inner
fabric. Raglan sleeves, convertible velvet collar, storm cuffs and slashed pockets. Prac-
tical and dressy. Ages 3 to 18 years. Special today, \$4.65.

Boys' Suits \$4.35

Each With Two Pairs Pants
—A special purchase. Norfoks in grays, browns
and tan mixtures. 5 to 18 years.

Samson Suits \$6.50

Each With Two Pairs Pants
—Satisfaction or a new suit free. Norfoks, all
practical colors. 6 to 18.
—Third Floor, Fifth Street.—Order by Mail

Initialed Bath Towels— 19c for the Best 25c Kind

—Good weight bath towels, size 20x40 inches, with large
red embroidered initial. All initials are here, but quantities
of each limited. Cleanup at 19c.

5c for 10c Wash Cloths

—Turkish cloths, with initial embroidered in red. Cleanup at 5c each.

\$1 for \$1.25 Linen Damask

—Extra heavy linen table damask, 70 inches wide, in a number of
effective patterns. Special at \$1 the yard.

—Second Floor, 5th St.

Meier & Frank Co.
Established 1867
THE QUALITY STORE OF PORTLAND
Fifth, Sixth, Morrison, Alder Sts.

Foot Ills

relieved quickly and
effectively by our
Chiropodist.

—Manicuring Parlors
—Fifth Floor.

ROAD TAX MEETING TODAY

Council Will Hear Linnton Boul-
vard Assessment Remonstrances.

Following out the legal steps neces-
sary to complete the proceedings for
the construction of the Linnton Sky-
line boulevard, the City Council will
hold a special meeting at 4 o'clock to-
day to hear remonstrances against the
assessments as proposed.

The assessment, if deemed equitable,
will be adopted, the work will be
formally accepted and the proceedings
closed up. It is expected that the
law suit will be instituted by property

owners who object to the payment of
assessments which are approxi-ately
40 per cent higher than the original
estimates before the work was started.

Klamath Club Plans Party.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Dec. 29.—
(Special).—In order to close the year
with enthusiasm, the Klamath Com-
mercial Club has decided to make its
last regular monthly members' meet-
ing a big social affair. It will be
held Thursday evening and is to be
called a "Kid Party." A juvenile pro-
gramme will be rendered by the mem-
bers, and a candy pull and other
stunts of a similar nature will com-
plete the programme.

MRS. DOOLITTLE TO TOUR

Homes of All Nations to Be Studied
for Material for Book.

Mrs. Laura Baldwin Doolittle will
leave today for the Orient, where she is
going to study the architectural and
artistic side of homes of the Oriental
nations. Later she will make a tour
studying homes of other nations. Mrs.
Doolittle will leave by the Northern
Pacific from Flavel, and sail from San
Francisco by the steamer Great North-
ern.

She will be gone indefinitely, and
will incorporate the results of her

study in a book she is writing on "The
Homes of All Nations." While on her
tour she will contribute articles to The
Oregonian.

Masons at Falls City Install.

FALLS CITY, Or., Dec. 28.—(Special).
—Luckiamute Lodge, No. 150, Masons,
held its installation of officers last
night, followed by a banquet, of which
the families and friends of the mem-
bers partook. The following officers
were installed: Worthy master, W. A.
Graham; senior warden, Ira C. Mehrl-
ing; junior warden, J. J. Sammons;
senior deacon, F. M. Hellwarth; sec-
retary, W. F. Nichols; treasurer, Albert
Teal.