

Gain in Volume of Business of Portland Postoffice Is Steady

Parcel Post and Postal Bank Are Two Big Factors

Tons of Shipments Handled Daily. Postal Savings System Grows Rapidly—Portland Ranks Sixth in Deposits.

By F. S. Myers, Postmaster of Portland.
TODAY the parcel post will celebrate its third birthday. Though only a lanky infant it has shown phenomenal growth and is even now a young giant. During the first year this new and untried service handled about 200,000 packages. This number has more than doubled, and the year 1915, according to conservative estimates, will show over a billion parcels handled in the third year of the service and fully two and three-quarters billions of parcels handled since its establishment.

During the first 15 days of last October the Portland office handled 248,922 parcels, or 13,148 parcels a day, being an increase of nearly 1,000 parcels a day over the same period in 1914. The total weight of outgoing parcels alone for those 15 days aggregated nearly 200 tons. It is surprising, indeed, that so great a burden as this can be handled by the Postoffice Department without a proportional increase in expense.

At the Portland office we have today nearly the same number of clerks which we had on January 1, 1913, the day the parcel post was established. It is true, however, that additional expense is incurred in collecting and delivering parcel post matter, but the number of clerks required to handle both the incoming and outgoing is the same as the office had before the parcel post was established. Many changes and reforms in the postal service have been necessary in order to handle this vast volume of business at a minimum of expense, but the fact that it has been done speaks for the efficiency of the postal service.

Postal Savings System Grows.
Another branch of the postal service which has shown an extraordinary growth is the Postal Savings system which was established at the Portland office on September 21, 1911, and which has shown an almost continuous growth from month to month ever since. On December 31, 1915, the Postal Savings Bank at the Portland office has used their deposits to buy \$81,540 worth of Postal Savings bonds, which bear 2 1/2 per cent interest and are free from all taxation. The applications for Postal Savings bonds of the series January 1, 1915, exceed the applications for any series since July 1, 1914. Should Congress remove the restrictions and make it easier for depositors to patronize the Postal Savings system, a very large increase would be shown in the Postal Savings deposits, which in the United States now aggregate \$11,500,000.



Perspective of Post Office Building which will be constructed this year.

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Work on Modern Structure to Be Undertaken Soon

Building Will Be of Fireproof Construction—It Will Occupy a Full Block and Will Be Six Stories in Height.

and vegetables, smoked meats, butter, canned and preserved fruits to the mutual advantage of the producer and consumer. The Portland Postoffice delivers mail and parcel post daily over about 51 square miles of territory. To serve this large area, and its population regularly and systematically, 20 letter carriers are employed, of whom 16 are engaged in the collection of mail and the routing and delivery of parcel post. A total of 202 clerks are employed in handling the incoming and outgoing mails, the directory division, general division, registry, stamps, cash and the departments and money order divisions and covering the schedule of business hours at the 18 classified stations.

It perhaps is not generally known that the Portland Postoffice has one of the largest payrolls of any institution in the state. In addition to paying the salaries of the monthly of its 411 civil service employees, it now pays 170 railway mail clerks and all the rural carriers in the State of Oregon, amounting to 253. These salaries, together with the rents for the classified stations and salaries to clerks at contract stations and other incidental expenses, made a total payroll of \$22,000.14 for the month of November, 1915, or over \$1,100,000 a year.

Surplus Funds Large.
The Portland Postoffice is the depository for the surplus postal funds of about 800 postoffices in Oregon and for the surplus money order funds of not only all the principal postoffices in Oregon, but also about 80 offices in the State of Washington. The surplus postal funds from other offices total about \$500,000 a year and the surplus money order funds exceed \$400,000 annually.

The architect for the new Portland Postoffice advises that the completed working plans were forwarded to the Department on December 7, so that in another 12 months the new Portland Postoffice, which is greatly needed, should be well under way. The type of this building is a new departure in Postoffice construction. It will be six stories high and arranged to house all the departments of the Federal Government, which are now paying rent in the City of Portland. This will effect a saving in rents to the Government of over \$100 a day.

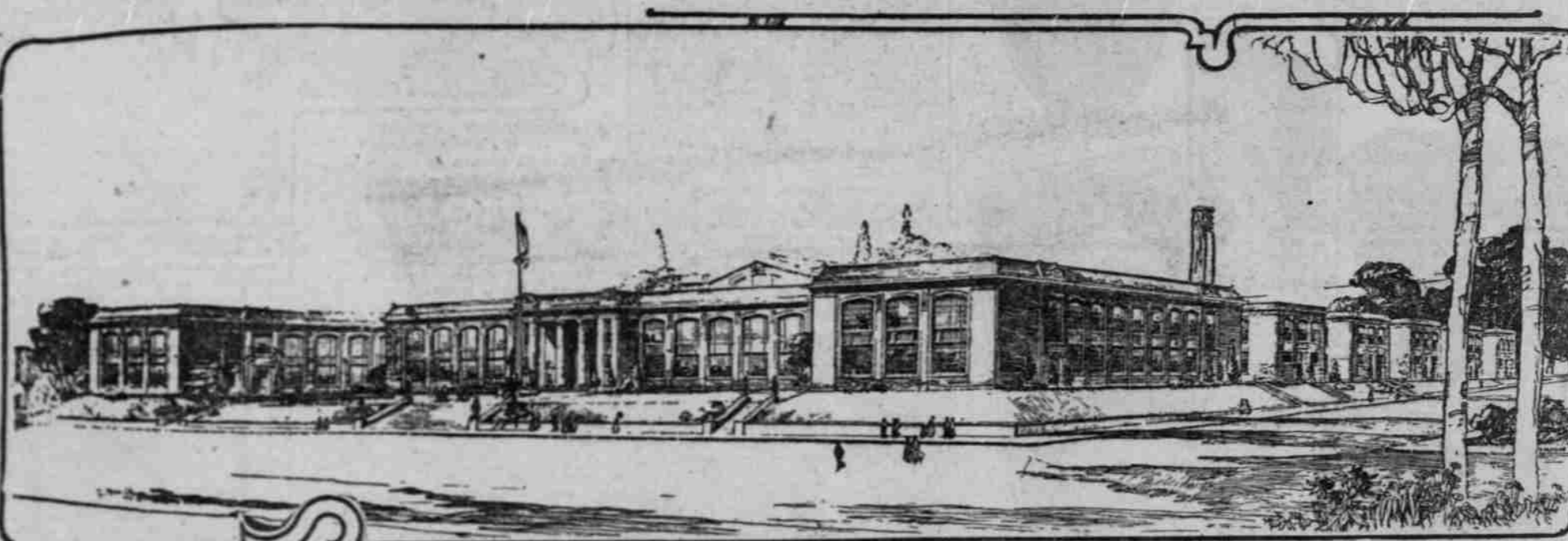
Great Interest Is Shown in Proposed Benson Polytechnic School

THE building of the new Benson Polytechnic School is an event not only of local concern, but of interest to educators throughout America. While Portland is one of half a dozen cities in America now having trade schools as a part of a public school system, the need of them that was foreseen several years ago is now being felt in many places and provision for them being made.

The construction of the new school building at this time was made possible through the generous interest in industrial training of E. Benson, Mr. Benson contributed \$100,000 toward the building and a like amount was voted by the School Board. The plans, which are now complete in the school architect's office, call for an expenditure of \$100,000 for the first two units of the building, which are to be constructed during the Spring and Summer.

The first two units will be ready for occupancy at the opening of the school year in September. The part to be constructed at once will be the main building, with administrative offices and all the shops for boys. It will be at least another year before the laboratories for girls will be built.

The completed structure will occupy a site of seven and a half acres and will cost approximately \$100,000. The main building will face on East Twelfth street and the several shops will extend from East Twelfth to East Thirteenth, and from East Irving to East Gilliam streets. It will be a two-story structure, the different units of which will be connected by a bridge construction in the way around the building. On the second floor the corridor will be in the nature of an open promenade. The building will be an artistic construction with wide vistas. In the first structure the plans call for an auditorium having a seating capacity of 2000.



Benson Polytechnic School

auditorium having a seating capacity of 2000. But of much greater interest to the public than the physical aspects of the building is the kind of instruction to be given. When it is remembered that

three-fourths of the world's work is done by hand, it is not surprising that the physical aspects of the building is the kind of instruction to be given. When it is remembered that

train workers, but to prepare young people for leadership in large industrial ventures. The changed conditions in modern manufacturing that make it impossible for the individual boy to go into a

shop as apprentice and work his way up as he learns the different processes make it impracticable also for even the son of the president of the company, who may wish to learn the entire process, to learn it within the

factory by donning overalls and starting at the bottom. The differentiation of tasks in the modern factory makes this impracticable. The boy who expects to succeed his father in the active management of a manufacturing

plant can best prepare himself in a technical school. It is likewise true that the boy who expects to work his way up to a position of leadership on his merits stands an infinitely better chance of so doing if he learns business methods and entire processes in a technical school.

Modern educators are coming to realize more and more that one of the weaknesses of American schools in the past has been that they have paid too little attention to applied science. It is a fact which he who runs may read, that the superiority of goods "made in Germany" or "made in France" is due to the application of scientific principles in the making of useful articles. Technical schools have been a part of the public school system in Germany for several generations.

Study Courses Outlined.
The changes in the course of study contemplated for the new school have not been positively decided upon. It is probable that there will be a preparatory course for students 14 years of age or over who have not completed the grammar school. Half time in this course will be in shop work, half in academic subjects. The academic work would include arithmetic, English, industrial history, geography and mechanical drawing. The trade courses will be as at present.

A four-year technical course will be offered which will differ from the trade courses in that it will give during the first two years a general training in the fundamental trades with special emphasis on the underlying principles of applied science. This course would include architectural drawing, carpentry, plumbing, electrical wiring. The academic work in this course would include mathematics, physics and English, civics and industrial history, science, timekeeping and cost accounting.

Portland's Auditorium to be Modern and Attractive Structure

AN attractive and commodious Auditorium for theatricals, concerts, exhibitions and permanent exhibits, talked of for years, is to become a reality in Portland before the end of 1916. Working plans have been completed, bids have been invited and the City Council expects to have the building ready for presentation to the public before the end of the year.

Portland's Auditorium will be patterned after successful structures in other cities, eliminating features that have been fatal to the success in some places and incorporating others which have been proved satisfactory. Extensive investigations of the principal cities of the country was made before the Portland plans were prepared.

Attractiveness of design and practicability of interior are to be the striking features of the building. The auditorium will be along classic lines but will be simple, well proportioned and harmonious. The interior will be arranged for the housing of large theatrical productions, smaller theatricals,



Perspective of City Auditorium, which will be completed this year

EMPLOYEES IN PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU

1905	124	1314	215
1906	124	1314	215
1907	124	1314	215
1908	124	1314	215
1909	124	1314	215
1910	124	1314	215
1911	124	1314	215
1912	124	1314	215
1913	124	1314	215
1914	124	1314	215
1915	124	1314	215

The exterior will be of gray brick and gray terra cotta trimmings. It will be 200 by 200 feet in size and 89 feet in height with an artistic pediment in front rising 25 feet above the rest of the building. The building will occupy the old West Side Market block, bounded by Second, Third, Clay and Market streets. The cost of the building will be somewhere about \$100,000, while the furnishings and a \$25,000 pipe organ will eat up the rest of the money realized from the sale of \$100,000 in long-term bonds authorized by the voters in 1911.

room will be smaller rooms divided off by removable partitions. When these partitions are removed and the stage is fitted with seats, the seating capacity of the Auditorium proper will be 3150, counting the 2140 seats in the side gallery.

The main floor will be 106 by 104 feet in size. The main entrance will be on Third street. On the Market-street

side will be an assembly room 40 feet in width and 148 feet long, and on the Clay-street side an assembly room 24 feet wide and 56 feet long.

The stage will be 32 feet across and 45 feet deep and will be elevated four feet above the main auditorium when the removable floor is not in place.

Normally the main auditorium with out the side assembly rooms will seat 1600 persons and the gallery 2140, a total of 2800, with much standing room left. A ticket lobby 16 by 73 feet in size will be on the Third-street side and inside that will be a lobby or corridor 12 by 160 feet in size.

Above the main floor will be the exhibit places and small meeting rooms. Here the Free Museum and the Oregon Historical Society will set up their exhibits. On this floor will be one exhibit or meeting place 23 by 100 feet; another 21 by 81 feet, another 22 by 44 feet and still another 16 by 63 feet.

Pipe Organ to Be Feature.
In the basement will be a permanent exhibit palace 164 by 138 feet in size specially designed for exhibits of bulky materials. This floor as well as the main auditorium floor will have vehicular entrances. In the basement will be a large public comfort station for women and men, with entrances both to the street and inside the building.

Around the proscenium arch will be a pipe organ to cost about \$20,000. It is planned to make this one of the

PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BOOK CIRCULATION

1905	177,076	1913	1,498,825
1910	552,722	1914	1,281,502
1911	600,000	1915	1,350,564
1912	1,036,894		

largest organs in the country and to make concerts a big attraction of the place. On the stage will be complete fittings for all kinds of theatrical productions.

On the top of the pediment of the building will be a searchlight which will be used for casting powerful rays about the city when there is something happening at the auditorium. Architects for the structure are Fredlander & Seymour, of New York, who were selected in an open competition. Their Portland representatives are Whitehouse & Poulthoux, architects. In their work they have called in specialists to design special features of the building, such as heating, ventilating, acoustics and arrangement of the theater part of the building. In addition J. A. Poulthoux made a six weeks' tour of the United States visiting the various auditoriums and getting data for use locally.