

# CITY BEGINS INQUIRY INTO FUEL PRICES

### Municipal Competition Is Proposed if Unfairness Is Discovered.

## MR. BAKER STARTS MOVE

### Ivan Humason Is Selected by Council to Conduct Investigation on Chances of Shortage and Basis of Present Trade.

An immediate extensive inquiry into fuel and ice conditions and later an inquiry into other necessities of life to determine whether or not the public is being gouged was ordered by the City Council yesterday on request of Mayor Baker.

Ivan Humason, a well-known real estate dealer, was selected by the Mayor and the Council to conduct the investigation. The work will be followed by the first will be to determine conclusively whether or not the city faces a fuel shortage and if it does to provide for meeting the situation at once.

### Quick Action Is Sought.

Quick action was decided on by Mayor Baker yesterday following receipt of a report from the police showing the amount of wood in stock and under contract by the various dealers. The report made by policemen showed that the wood in stock and under contract amounts to 160,226 cords, or an average of about two and one-half cords for each family in Portland.

Soon after making a study of the report to the Council and made recommendations. The Mayor followed by the calling of a Council meeting at 3:30 in the afternoon, at which the Mayor outlined the progress and recommended the employment of Mr. Humason.

The suggestions met with the unanimous consent of all Council members except Commissioner Bigelow, who was not present. It was agreed to pay Mr. Humason \$200 a month and his expenses. He said his investigation should not require more than a month and a half or two months.

### Increases to Be Investigated.

Mr. Humason will get full information on the status of the wood market, the reasonable amount of stock available in prices, the amount of wood available out of Portland, the transportation possibilities and the possibilities of getting other fuel for the city.

Mayor Baker's plan is to have the city go temporarily into the wood business if the city is facing a shortage. He stated that the public is being gouged unreasonably, the Mayor's proposal is to combat the practice by municipal competition.

In his letter to the Council Mayor Baker says: To the Council—The Bureau of Police, under my orders, has completed a tabulation of fuel conditions in Portland.

The report clearly establishes the question as to the condition of the city's fuel supply. Also it gives room for question as to the propriety of being asked for fuel by the dealers. The tabulation shows that there is in stock in the city, or under contract for delivery to the dealers, a total of 160,226 cords of wood of all kinds.

On the basis of 60,000 cords in Portland (the Water Bureau estimate), this allows, in round numbers, one cord and one-half for each family. This, of course, does not take into consideration the question of coal, briquets, fuel oil or other fuels and does not count fuel already delivered.

### Unusual Profits Suspected.

The report indicates that five concerns have contracted for the right of slash wood from mills in and near Portland; it would indicate that there are unusual profits for dealers under these conditions. The figures show, for example, that one concern has contracted for four tons of slash at the rate of \$1.50 a cord and is selling same at retail for \$4.50; a profit of \$3 per cord.

The report indicates that considerable difficulty is being experienced in the distribution, some of the dealers being reticent about giving the information and others refusing to give information, absolutely.

I do not wish to make any charges or imputations against any dealer, but in view of the conditions as reported by the police, I wish to recommend at this time a continuation of the investigation along two distinct lines, as follows:

First—To determine as quickly as possible the question of whether Portland is a fuel shortage, and if it does, to prepare plans for the importation of coal, or other fuel by the city. This inquiry would extend to territory outside the city, where slashwood is burned as refuse.

Also it would extend to the question of coal importation and importation of wood from the National forests and other places where fuel may be available, and also would extend to the question of transportation from these points.

### Fair Decision Is Wanted.

Second—An inquiry as to the prices now being charged by dealers. The question of increases reasonable under the increased cost of labor, materials and supplies, should be determined accurately and fairly and, if it is found that dealers are taking advantage of the unusual times and are speculating in fuel to the detriment of the consumers, the city should take steps to break up such practices.

The whole country is aroused over the question of undue profits during these unusual times. The President of the United States has spoken seriously on the subject; the Government has employed men to cope with the situation and I feel that Portland should at this time take a hand in the movement and deal quickly and severely with all cases where it is found that the public is being gouged.

I wish to recommend at this time that the City Council provide for the services of Ivan Humason to the up and continue this investigation along the two lines mentioned. I consider that Mr. Humason is thoroughly qualified to continue this investigation and to accomplish quickly the results we wish.

## NORTHCLIFFE HEARS SURF

### Roar of Pacific and Greetings in Song Cross Continent.

NEW YORK, July 12.—The breakers at the Cliff House, San Francisco, and the surf at Coney Island, New York, more than 3500 miles apart, were heard simultaneously by the Star Spangled Banner by Lord Northcliffe, head of the British commission in this country, and a number of American and English army officers at the offices of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company.

Then they stood at attention while the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Save the King" came over the wires from San Francisco.

### Whisky Hauler at Astoria Fined.

ASTORIA, Or., July 12.—(Special.)—E. J. Blakely, formerly proprietor of the Terminal Restaurant at Flavel, who was arrested a few days ago by Marshal Connell for hauling nine cases of whisky in his car, was found guilty in the Justice Court at Warrenton today. He was fined \$75, which he paid.

# COLEGY NEWS

POPULAR PORTLAND GIRL ACTIVE IN PLANS FOR LINCOLN ALUMNI BOATING PARTY TONIGHT.



Miss Charlotte Pageler

THE garden at Bishopscroft yesterday afforded an ideal setting for the social honor that Bishop Sumner planned for his house guest and esteemed friend, Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, of Chicago. The bishop received several hundred guests between the hours of 4 and 6 o'clock. For each one who greeted her, Mrs. Young had a bright smile and friendly word. Masses of roses decorated the cool, inviting porch and the music room and reception hall of the residence. Several women prominent in educational and social circles of Oregon assisted in receiving and serving. Mrs. Charles D. Sumner, the bishop's mother, and a number of visitors shared in welcoming the accomplished guest, Mrs. Young.

Mrs. H. B. Rodgers and Miss Carolyn Rodgers, of Columbus, Ohio, are the guests of Mrs. Benjamin F. Weaver. Mrs. Charles L. Ross gave a luncheon at the Benson Wednesday for Miss Carolyn Rodgers. Her guests were Miss Rodgers, Miss Glenn, of Denver; Miss Lann, of San Francisco; Miss Bertha Masters and Mrs. Boss. On a motoring day Mrs. Rodgers and Miss Rodgers and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Glen motored to Seaside as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Boss. They will remain until Monday evening, and while in Seaside will stay at the Hotel Moore.

The residence of Mrs. J. G. Gauld, at the head of King street, will be the scene tomorrow of a reception at which the Arts and Crafts Society will entertain in compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wesley Dow, of New York City. Mr. Dow is head of the art department of the teachers' college of Columbia University and is regarded as one of the foremost men of his profession. He is an art critic and teacher of international renown. Mrs. Dow is a social favorite and a woman of charming personality. Mr. Dow will give a series of lectures in the Portland Art Museum for the benefit of local art students. He came West to attend the N. E. A. and was one of the speakers on Wednesday. The hour of the reception is 4 o'clock.

Dr. Franklin E. Hoskins, of Syria, is the guest of H. C. Campbell at the University Club. Dr. Hoskins will preach at the First Presbyterian Church on Sunday.

### Mills and Camps Run Full Time.

PELLA, Wash., July 12.—(Special.)—Mills and camps in this section are running full blast after the slow-down incident to the Fourth of July. During the shutdown several mills made needed improvements.

Mrs. W. H. Churchhill and daughter, Miss Claris, will leave for the East soon. They will be delegates to the National convention of the auxiliary of letter-carriers, which will convene at Denver, Colo., in September.

Mrs. Charles T. Early has as her house guest Miss Eva Yates, a charming girl from Corvallis.

Reproducing a ceremonial hall in an Oriental palace, the assembly hall of the Portland Hotel was the scene yesterday of one of the most interesting receptions given for the N. E. A. delegates and friends. The hall was furnished in handsome teakwood furniture and was adorned in exquisite draperies. Ferns and flowers added a touch of Oregon's own out of doors, bringing the Far East and the Far West together. The festivity was arranged by Seid Gain Back and other Chinese merchants. Pretty Chinese girls, dressed in Oriental costume, served tea to the guests. The girls were the Misses Daisy Luck, Miss Elsie Luck, Mabel Lee, Grace Lee, Alyson Wong, Pearl Moy, Helen Moy, Helen Law, Minnie Lum, Nette Toy, Myrtle Wong, Alice Wong, Rose Seid and Ruth Lee.

Presiding at the tables and assisting were Mrs. J. Francis Drake, Mrs. H. R. Albee, Mrs. Herbert Holman, Mrs. E. H. McCollum, Mrs. E. W. Walker, Mrs. J. C. Elliott King, Mrs. C. B. Simmona, Mrs. Bert Denison, Mrs. J. Coulson Hare, Mrs. Warren E. Thomas, Miss Leona Lawrence, Miss Mills, Mrs. Chester O. Kellogg, Mrs. Martha Webb, Mrs. C. M. Kiggins, Mrs. C. E. Runyon. The guests admired the rich Oriental setting and the fascinating girls who served and appreciated the generous hospitality of the host and his assistants. A large number of N. E. A. delegates attended.

Mrs. Horace Oaklen has been called to Aberdeen by the illness of her mother, Mrs. F. G. Deming.

Questions and answers, with Mrs. Crawford presiding, will be the program at the Mustard Seed Club this evening at 8 P. M. in the Woman's Exchange building, Fifth street near Yamhill, second floor. The meeting is open to the public. All who have not seen

# CHAUTAQUA GIRLS ATTRACT BIG CROWD

### 2600 Hear Patriotic Music by Military Orchestra and Enjoy Travel Lecture.

## GRAND ARMY MEN TALK

### Mrs. Lucia Addison Condemns Speculation in Necessities of Life as Criminal and Suggests Prisoners Work Farms.

**TODAY AT CHAUTAUQUA.**  
Oregon City Day.  
Morning, 8 to 12—Summer school and Junior Chautauquas.  
10—Sermon-lecture, The Curbstone Critic and His Wife, Rev. W. C. Buckner.  
11—Forum-March of the Young Brigade, Miss Gladys Hannon.  
1:30—Prelude, Lottito's Band.  
2—Community lecture, The adventure of Being Human, Lorenza Wilson.  
3:30—Baseball, Oregon City Red Men vs. Kirkpatrick's.  
7:30—Grand concert, Joseph Lottito and Royal Band; popular selections, Mary Adel Hays.

GLADSTONE PARK, Or., July 12.—(Special.)—The largest crowd that has attended any of the sessions of the present Chautauquas engagement thronged Gladstone Park today, drawn by the big double attraction of the Military Girls' Orchestra and Dr. Whitefield Ray, travel lecturer. Fully 2600 persons crowded the Auditorium for the afternoon lecture, and even more were present tonight to hear the complete programme of the Military Girls' Orchestra.

The concert programme given tonight by the orchestra included a variety of patriotic selections, with musical burlesque and vaudeville acts included. The winning number of the act this afternoon was a comic song by one of the sextet, in which the girls showed the effect of the encroaching war spirit—even in the entertainments.

### Grand Army Men Talk.

Previous to the afternoon programme in the Auditorium, several members of the G. A. R. gave brief addresses, among them being C. E. Cline, T. H. Stevens and J. D. Stevens.

"You will always find," said Dr. Whitefield Ray, "that the average man is incredulous, and the more incredulous he is the more ignorant he always is." Oregon City day promises to attract many tomorrow, and a specially attractive programme has been prepared, with Lottito's band of 22 pieces as the headliner, and Mary Adel Hays, vocalist.

### Speculation Considered Crime.

"If speculation in wheat in times of peace is a sin, in times of war it becomes criminal," said Mrs. Lucia Addison, of the Oregon Women's Christian Temperance Union, in lecturing on "Conserve, Preserve and Observe," at the forum hour this morning.

"We cannot hope in this war," said Mrs. Addison, "to make any progress with but one army. The mobilization of the military army is futile without the efficient mobilization of the industrial army of labor."

"In all this talk of food control we are apt to lose sight of the true aim of the movement. It is to check speculation."

Advantage was taken of the opportunity to take a stab at the liquor interests by pointing out that if it is a crime to corner wheat, held for the manufacture of bread, it is doubly criminal to use this wheat for the manufacture of liquor.

### Prisoners Wanted on Farms.

Mrs. Addison urged that the vast army of prisoners in the state and county jails be conscripted for farm work, as well as the large body of men who would soon be put out of employment by the passage of the prohibition act.

Mrs. Gertrude Woodard sang a solo and her prominent, Miss Mary Beth, gave a recitation, "Our Flag," repeated from yesterday's programme by request. Major John J. Murray recited a selection from Bret Harte's American Poems. Mrs. Jennie M. Kemp, presi-

## Interesting Reductions in Suits for Summer and Vacation Wear!

Take Your Choice at

### \$9.75, \$14.75, \$16.50, \$19.75

An excellent collection of choice new garments in the most wanted styles. Many are smart tailor designs—others plain and fancy novelty models. All materials, including Poret twill, gabardine, taffeta, serge, silk poplin and jersey. Women's and misses' sizes.

Choose Now for Your Vacation Trip

### Afternoon Dresses

\$19.75, \$25.00, \$29.50, \$34.75, \$49.00

Crepe de chine, taffeta and satin are featured in these smart dresses for afternoon and resort wear. A complete range of sizes and all colors.

### Wash Dresses \$7.50

A splendid showing of new dresses in all colors and all popular materials. All sizes.

## Special for Friday—Voile and Organdie Waists, \$2.00 and \$2.50

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### H. Liebes & Co. Furs Altered and Repaired at Special Summer Prices

ESTABLISHED 22 YEARS 148-151 BROADWAY

dent of the Oregon W. C. T. U. acted as chairman. "He that is slow to anger is greater than the mighty," was the text chosen by the Rev. W. C. Buckner for the theme of his morning lecture on "Self-Possession."

## AUTO BUYER IS HELD

### CHARGE OF FRAUD MADE AGAINST EASTERN OREGON YOUTH.

Slight Draft for \$300 Given by E. S. Forstrom on Walla Walla Bank is Returned Second Time.

Charged with obtaining an automobile from the Northwest Auto Company by fraudulent methods, E. S. Forstrom, said to be a son of a wealthy Eastern Oregon family, is in the County Jail and was ordered held to the grand jury after a preliminary hearing yesterday before District Judge Dayton.

Forstrom, by his own admission, gave the auto company a slight draft for \$300 on the Third National Bank of Walla Walla, Wash., without having an account in the bank or any funds to meet payment.

Forstrom says he expected to receive money after his arrival in Walla Walla, and when it did not come he at once wrote the Portland firm to hold up the draft for a few days. In the meantime, however, the draft had been returned to a Portland bank marked "No account," but again was sent to the Walla Walla bank, where it was once more returned with payment refused.

Forstrom said he had intended returning to Portland and getting the matter settled. He said his father was prominent in Eastern Oregon and would settle his financial difficulties, but he was endeavoring to square matters up

without having his family know he had been arrested.

Farmers' Meetings Are Held. CHEWALIS, Wash., July 12.—(Special.)—E. Nystrom, County Agriculturalist, will hold a meeting at Randle, July 23, and at Morton, July 25. "The Winter Feed Supply" will be the topic discussed. A special campaign is being made in the dairy sections of Lewis County, impressing upon farmers the importance of laying in a supply of the proper kinds of stock food for dry summer months and for coming winter.

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America's Best Makes Deeply Reduced.

Men's Hanan's and Boyden's Oxfords in black or tan leather. Snappy styles at clearing reductions ..... \$6.95

Men's Bluchers and Lace Shoes in calf or Kangaroo. Reduced during Midsummer Clearance to only..... \$4.95

Men's Lace Shoes in gunmetal; Goodyear welt soles, English toes. In Midsummer Clearance at only..... \$3.95

Men's Fine Oxfords \$3.95 and Up.

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—We cannot replace them, therefore we propose to sell them quickly. Men, this is the time to buy shoes.

### Women's Shoes Reduced

Women's White Washable Kid Shoes, lace or button; welt soles. \$6.95 Reduced to .....

Women's Ivory Kid Pumps, hand turned. Reduced to \$5.95