LIGHT FOR SCHOOLS DAZZLES DIRECTORS

Competition for Contracts Creates Tense Period.

UTILITIES CROSS WIRES

Mr. Thomas Develops as Dictator of Electric Service Given in Past on Verbal Order.

Competition for the lighting contracts in the new James John high school and Buckman school, between the Portland Railway, Light & Power company and the Northwestern Electric company, brought an embarrassing moment or so to the school board last night, when it developed that Director Thomas had taken the responsibility for instructing the latter company to extend its lines to the respective schools and prepare to give service.

"The Portland Railway, Light & Power company has absolutely no contract with the school board that I was able to find," explained Director Thomas. "I thought it was high time and only fair that the Northwestern should have some of the business.

"My idea," suggested Director Shull, "would be that we should ask for bids from both companies and get service as cheaply as possible."

Northwestern Enters Field.

Since 1917, it had been shown, the Portland Railway, Light & Power company, acting on a verbal understanding with the school district, has made all necessary extensions to school buildings for light and power, and had prepared to serve the James John and Buckman schools only to discover that the Northwestern was already in the field and had installed equipment. L. T. Merwin, general manager for the Northwestern, informed the board that he considered the service awarded to his company, and had acted on that assumption.

Here Director Shull interposed an inquiry as to what authorization the Northwestern had received, inasmuch as he and other members of the board had not considered the matter. Director Thomas then said that he had proceeded on his own account, acting for the board and in the belief that the Northwestern deserved recognition.

No Contract Entered Into.

"I expected that from you," he said to Director Shull. "There has been no contract entered into."

"But I understood Mr. Merwin to say—"

"Yes, I know," interrupted Director Thomas, "but the other company has no contract, either. This probably will be the subject for another investigation."

Chairman Newill closed the brief controversy with expressed approval of Director Shull's suggestion that hereafter all awards shall be previously discussed by the entire board. The controverted claims of the two public service corporations, respecting the James John and Buckman schools, were referred to the joint committee, property and business, for settlement.

Verbal Agreement Is Urged.

The Portland Railway, Light & Power company was represented at the session by O. B. Coldwell, vice-president, who maintained that in view of the successful effort of that company to give service to schools, often by expensive extensions through sparsely settled neighborhoods, the old verbal agreement should stand.

The board turned with a will to practical philanthropy when E. B. MacNaughton of the municipal unemployment commission urged that they purchase at least 500 cords of firewood from the municipal woodyard, where jobless men are at work. By unanimous vote the district was pledged to place an initial order for 1000 cords.

J. J. Handsaker, representing the community chest, petitioned the board for co-operation through the schools. The request was referred to the superintendent, with power to act, and against the disapproval of Director Thomas.

Mr. Thomas Criticises Chest.

"I'm not entirely in sympathy with that community chest," he declared. "They don't just exactly do things as I would do them."

In yet another instance the board went on record as disagreeing with Director Thomas, when he opposed the award of a liability insurance order to the Oregon Surety & Casualty company, and contended that the matter be held in abeyance for investigation. Directors Shull, Woodward, Clark, Elsman and Newill voted for the award, with Director Thomas voicing a lonely negative.

Purchase of a five-acre school site on Errol Heights, to serve as the future location of a Woodmere-Woodstock school, at a price of $1905, was determined upon by the board. Inasmuch as the owner holds the land at $1000 an acre, while it is assessed at $250, the board voted to make the offer recommended by the business committee and in the event it is declined to begin condemnation proceedings.

Many Bids Are Referred.

The following bids were received and referred to committees: For 32 fire extinguishers, Johns-Manville company, $384; A. G. Long company, $411.20. For electrical work, third unit Rose City Park school, Commercial Electric company, $570; Nepage-McKenny company, $325; Smith-McCoy Electric company, $171. For sheetmetal work, Rose City Park school, Al G. Reed, $3042; Bayer Furnace company, $3317; J. T. Weaverson, $3198. The bid of Rushlight & Hastorf, for plumbing, Rose City Park school, amounting to $675, was rejected, and the superintendent of properties instructed to do the work with his own force.

Two bids were received for the privilege of wrecking the old Couch school, and both rejected. A. F. Elerath bid $600, while Driscoll & Collier bid $450.

Property Put Upon Sale.

On motion of Director Shull the board decided to place the entire property in the hands of Wakefield, Fries & Co. for sale at a minimum price of $85,000.

Announcement was made by Chairman Newill that Hopkin Jenkins and A. E. Jenkins had founded an Oregon Agricultural college scholarship in memory of their mother, whose death recently occurred, and to be known as the Mary Jenkins scholarship.

NEW THEATER POSSIBILITY

Reports From Seattle Revive Rumors Previously Heard.

Reports from Seattle that Martin Beck of the Orpheum is to build a new theater there costing more than $750,000 have revived the belief that Portland will have a similar playhouse. Frank McGettigan, local manager of the Orpheum, said last night that Mr. Beck told him two years ago in San Francisco that he would erect a theater here at the same time he built one in the Puget sound city.

"Portland is a better town than Seattle and there is no reason why Mr. Beck should not build here," said Mr. McGettigan. "The city would gain much by such a move on the part of the Orpheum interests, as the same class of shows would continue and we would have a full week's time here. The shows would change twice a week under the junior Orpheum plan.

"It seems likely to me that Mr. Beck will build here if he builds in Seattle."

OFFICERS ARE INSTALLED

HIBERNIANS AND AUXILIARY HOLD JOINT SESSION.

John R. Murphy, Retiring President, Acts as Master of Ceremonies at Hall Gathering.

Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the women's auxiliary of the order for 1922 were inaugurated at joint installation ceremonies last night at Hibernia hall. John R. Murphy, retring president, acted as master of ceremonies.

The following officers were installed: Francis Mallon, president; L. P. Morrow, vice-president; Eugene McEntee, recording secretary; T. R. Maguigan, financial secretary; Thomas Ward, treasurer; T. P. Dougherty, sergeant-at-arms.

Ladies' auxiliary—Mrs. Annie O'Hanlon, president; Mrs. T. S. Hogan, vice-president; Miss Margaret Kellaher, recording secretary; Miss Katherine Kenny, financial secretary; Mrs. Delia Lillis, treasurer; Mrs. Elizabeth Walknot, sergeant-at-arms.

James Callahan was chairman of the standing committee and J. F. McGrath chairman of the sentinel committee for the order. Miss Katherine Dowd headed the sentinel committee for the auxiliary at the installation services.

Following the installation of officers an informal programme of entertainment was given. President Mallon in his address announced that he had made plans to double the membership of the organization the coming year.

CHURCH TO HAVE CENTER

COMMUNITY HOUSE NEW UNIT OF CENTENARY-WILBUR.

East Side Methodists Remodel Building for Social and Other Local Activities.

Extensive changes are in progress in the remodeling of the building at the southwest corner of East Ash and East Ninth streets, to be known as the Centenary-Wilbur community house. It is proposed to make this a center for social activities in the central east side district.

The building, which is owned by the Centenary-Wilbur Methodist Episcopal church, and which it adjoins, will be ready for occupancy in about two weeks, when a public "housewarming" will be held. It is a large two-story structure with 12 rooms. Some of these rooms are being thrown together and many interior changes are in progress, new floors are being laid and the walls and woodwork will be redecorated.

The upper floor will be used exclusively for the East Side Boys' club, directed by Floyd M. Reeves. The club has 75 members with senior and junior departments. Its quarters will have a library and game rooms, and will be open afternoons and evenings. The gymnasium work of this club is carried on at the Washington high school gymnasium.

Legion to Run Gymnasium.

BEND, Or., Jan. 4.—(Special.)—Percy A. Stevens post, No. 4, American Legion, will shortly take over the management of Bend's $80,000 gymnasium building, it was decided at a meeting of the executive committee of the post last night. For more than six months the building has been under a joint committee drawn from the post and from citizens at large.

Hotel Clerk Beaten, Robbed.

Mack Walsh, clerk in the Standish hotel, 548½ Washington street, reported to the police last night that he was attacked, bound, gagged and robbed of $275 in one of the hotel rooms. Police are working on the theory that the job was the work of some enemy of Walsh's who gave him a spite beating and then got further satisfaction by robbing him.

F. J. Williams Is Robbed.

F. J. Williams of Gresham, who operates a fruit stand at Sixth and Pine streets, told police that last night a pickpocket lifted his purse, containing $25 and private papers. Williams was of the opinion that he was jostled in a crowd and robbed.

"Southport Coal is better—EDLEFSEN'S."—Adv.

COOMER FUNERAL TODAY

RITES FOR BAND INSTRUCTOR TO BE AT 2 P. M.

Musician Well Known in Oregon and in Southwestern Washington Amusement Circles.

Funeral services for Jonathan M. Coomer, 66, band instructor and musician, who died at his home, 751 East Salmon street, Monday night, will be held today at 2 P. M. at the Lerch chapel, East Eleventh and East Clay streets.

Mr. Coomer was born in Morrow county, Ohio, November 19, 1855. With his brother, Virgil Coomer, he came to Oregon in 1883. Mr. Coomer became instructor of the Home Amusement band of Salem and later extended his work to bands in the smaller towns adjacent. Homer Davenport, cartoonist and humorist, was a base drummer in the old Silverton band which Mr. Coomer trained.

Jonathan M. Coomer, veteran Oregon band instructor, dies in Portland.

He became well known in band circles in Portland and in many places in Oregon and southwestern Washington. For the past four years he had been connected with the Seiberling & Lucas Music house and was a first cornetist of the Moose band.

Mr. Coomer was a member of the Knights of Pythias, Woodmen and Moose lodges and of the Musicians' Mutual association.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Emma Joslyn Coomer, two sons, Lester and Norris, a brother, Virgil Coomer, all of Portland, and a sister, Mrs. Emma Bercraft of Seattle.

SPEED "COP" IS DIVORCED

WIFE OF FRANK E. BABCOCK CHARGES INFIDELITY.

Presiding Circuit Judge Tucker Grants 13 Default Decrees in Pending Cases.

Frank E. Babcock, Portland speed "cop," would have discovered that there are two kinds of scorching had he been present in the court of Presiding Judge Tucker yesterday while Mrs. Adeline C. Babcock told the judge what she thought of her husband and recounted numerous instances of infidelity of which she said she had proof. She received her decree of divorce.

Other divorce actions in which decrees were awarded were: Elaine against George Mitchell, Grace E. against N. F. Titus, Vivian against Lloyd E. Gilham, James H. against Ella Word, Annetta M. against V. R. Benway, Rose L. against T. H. Fleming, H. against Kittie Marshall, Grace against A. E. Sanborn, Marie against James Burris, Hazel B. against Harold O. Buel, R. Scott against McCormack Altmanns, Grace against G. W. Flett, Josephine against Verna Hilliard, Rose H. against George W. Shutes, Walter against Gertrude Jones, Erma A. against Philip S. Johnson and Ira E. against Theodore Church.

The moment George A. Sorber signed over his home to his wife, Minerva Celia Sorber, March 15, 1914, she waved the deed in his face and declared, "You have turned the house over to me and it will be one heck of a long time before I turn it back to you," complains Sorber as one of the allegations in a divorce suit filed in the circuit court yesterday.

Other divorce suits filed were Albert P. against Flossie May Ness, Charlotte R. against George A. Gundlock and Blanche against Sherman Powell.

POLICE MATRON RETIRES

Mrs. Elsie Elsaman Will Succeed Mrs. Myra Shank at Salem.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 4.—(Special.)—Mrs. Elsie Elsaman, wife of a Salem contractor, tonight was elected police matron by the city council over Mrs. Myra Shank, who has held the position for more than six years. Mrs. Elsaman was recommended for appointment by Verden Moffitt, chief of police, and the members of the police committee. Mrs. Elsaman received nine of the 14 votes cast.

Earl Race was re-elected city recorder, while Ray Smith was re-elected city attorney, Hugh Rogers was chosen city engineer and J. N. Skaife sanitary inspector.

An ordinance providing for the revocation of licenses issued to jitney and taxi drivers who violate the liquor laws, was placed on its first reading.

The meeting was featured by consideration of annual reports and an address by Mayor Halverson, in which he outlined his policy of administration for the present year. Efficiency and economy were his promises to the public.

HEDDERLY SUIT IS BEGUN

WIDOW ASKS $7500 FROM HUSBANDS SLAYERS.

Two Patrolmen Defendants Following Award of $1500 Damages From Federal Agents.

Selection of the jury began yesterday in the second court appearance of Lena A. Hedderly, seeking damages for the death of her husband, Robert W. Hedderly, who was shot during a prohibition raid September 10, 1920.

The widow was awarded $1500 damages by a jury in the federal court in a suit against William R. Wood, James J. Biggins and Delazon C. Smith, government prohibition agents. She is now suing in the circuit court the two patrolmen who participated in the shooting affair, William D. Morris and Earl M. Jackson, asking damages of $7500.

Hedderly, suspected bootlegger, was shot as he was driving from the scene of a raid on Union avenue near Stark street. A fusilade of bullets followed the automobile in which he was riding, one fatally wounding Hedderly, who died the following day in a local hospital.

The widow, who is the mother of a five-year-old boy, charged the officers with negligence and conspiracy to capture her husband "dead or alive" for an alleged violation of the prohibition law.

Barnett H. Goldstein represents the plaintiff in the action, Elton Watkins and W. A. Carter, the defendants. The suit is on trial before Circuit Judge Gatens.

ODDFELLOWS' DEAL PENDS

Sale of Old Alder-Street Building Today Expected.

A deal is expected to be closed today whereby A. F. Swensson, Portland real estate man, will purchase the old Oddfellows' building at the corner of First and Alder streets.

Officials of the Oddfellows' Hall association admitted last night that such a deal was pending but declared it had not yet been closed.

In case the building is sold the Oddfellows contemplate immediate erection of a new four-story building to cost $200,000 at the southwest corner of Tenth and Salmon streets. A site 100x100 feet is now in possession of the lodge.

The old building, which was recently damaged by fire, is a three-story structure and was erected in 1869.

JOB PASSES MR. McNARY

East Blocks Move to Place Oregon Senator in Penrose's Shoes.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—While Senator McNary of Oregon has been mentioned in connection with the vacancy on the powerful finance committee of the senate created by the death of Senator Penrose, it appears to have been decided that the place should go to Senator Frelinghuysen of New Jersey. The east is insistent that if Senator McCumber of North Dakota is to succeed Penrose as chairman there should be no further distribution of honors to the west.

The McNary movement was started by some of the members of the western farmer bloc, but received no encouragement from Mr. McNary.

Chris Eri Dead.

BORING, Or., Jan. 4.—(Special.)—Funeral services for Chris Eri, who died at the Milwaukie sanitarium, were held Sunday at the Pleasant Home church, Rev. Pitts officiating. Mr. Eri was born at Albert Lea, Minn., on April 20, 1872, and came to Oregon when a child. He is survived by two brothers, Gilbert Eri and Henry Eri of Boring, Or., and a sister, Mrs. Carrie Schan of Portland.

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GARMENT PLANT TO OPEN

WORK WILL START MONDAY WITH GREATER OUTPUT.

Oregon City Woolen Mills' New Factory to Employ 150 Operatives. Equipment Is Increased.

The new central garment factory of the Oregon City woolen mills, to be located in the building at East Stark and Grand avenue, formerly known as the Furniture Exchange, will open next Monday morning with an increase of nearly 100 per cent in the number of employes.

Plants Nos. 2 and 3, which have been located at 244-46 Russell street, have been consolidated with the new factory, and the equipment has been materially increased. The new factory will have 125 power sewing machines and a series of power cutters. All the garment cutting will be done at the new factory, where about 150 operatives will be employed.

The new plant is well lighted on all sides, has a special system of ventilation, and various conveniences are provided for employes, including a lunch room on the mezzanine floor.

Additional equipment also is being placed in the garment factory at the Oregon City mills, where overcoats are made exclusively. The working force there will be increased about 35 per cent this month, says H. F. Tschirgi, superintendent of the manufacturing department.

The annual reunion of the employes of the Oregon City woolen mills, an event that has grown to large proportions, will take place on the night of Saturday, January 28, at the Oregon City mills. About 700 employes and members of their families will be in attendance. The company will provide special cars to take the employes from Portland to the reunion and bring them back.

One of the features will be the presentation of home talent playlets, all of the participants being employes.

GARAGE MEN ARE FINED

SUBSTITUTION OF MOTOR OILS ADMITTED BY DEALERS.

Hawthorne Avenue Firm, Guilty of Cheating Customers, Shifts Blame to Employes.

Substitution of motor oils by garages was further discouraged yesterday in the third conviction of Portland garage owners in a prosecution handled by Deputy District Attorney Crumpacker. G. A. Long and C. A. Silva, proprietors of a garage at 462 Hawthorne avenue, were the defendants and were fined $50 by District Judge Deich.

C. L. Winters, owner of a shop at Sixteenth and Jefferson streets, and Barde & Cox, proprietors of the Twenty-third-street garage, were convicted in previous trials but sentence has not been passed.

Prosecution on the same charge of H. C. Hendricksen, garage man of 1063 Hawthorne avenue, and C. R. Upham of the Columbia Highway garage, today, and of James P. Jensen, proprietor of the Viaduct garage, tomorrow, will clean up cases which have been pending since a raid on oil-filling stations conducted last fall by representatives of the Waverley oil distributors in this city.

In the Long and Silva case, the garagemen confessed to substituting an inferior and cheaper oil when Waverley oil was specified by a purchaser, but pleaded good faith and lack of knowledge of the act because the actual substitution had been made by employes. It further was claimed as an extenuating circumstance that the price charged the buyer was that of the cheaper oil and not the cost of the brand ordered.

Cases set for today will be before juries.

Father Seeks George Wessall.

After eight years, during which time he has not seen his son, F. S. Wessall of Bellingham, Wash., is seeking to locate his boy, George Wessall. The young man left his home a number of years ago and has not returned. The last time his father had any word, George was in Portland. Any information relative to the whereabouts of George Wessall can be sent to his father in Bellingham.

PARKING BAN EXTENDED

FOUR HOURS IS LIMIT IN CITY AFTER MIDNIGHT.

All-Night Stands Prohibited Under Ordinance Passed by the City Council.

Automobile owners who have been in the habit of parking their cars on streets, alleys, sidewalks or parking strips all night must find garages or barns in which to store their cars, for the city council yesterday passed an ordinance prohibiting all-night parking.

The ordinance, which came to the council with the recommendation of Chief of Police Jenkins and Captain Lewis in charge of the traffic bureau, prohibits the parking of any vehicle for more than four hours after midnight.

The ordinance also requires dimmed lights as required under the state motor code, and in addition that every motor vehicle parking during the period from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise parked in the following districts must display lights on both the rear and front of such vehicles: South of Taylor and west of Twelfth and north of Oak street on the west side and south of Belmont and east of Grand avenue and north of Sullivan's Gulch on the east side.

Purse Snatched From Woman.

Mrs. S. Trebers, 308 Grand avenue, reported to police last night that a man snatched her purse, containing $85, while she was at the corner of Grand avenue and East Washington street. She said she followed him through the crowd for a short distance before losing sight of him.

Sam Kasstetter Is Sought.

The police yesterday received a telegram from Lindsay, Cal., asking for information concerning the whereabouts of Sam Kasstetter, whose father is dangerously ill there. The young man is believed to be somewhere in Portland. The telegram was from Mrs. C. E. Woolfones of the Angelus hotel, Lindsay, Cal.

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