

NO RADICAL ACTION

Freight Bureau May Be Here
Two Weeks.

CHIEF WORK TO TRUE-UP RATES

No General Scheme Either for Ad-
vances or Reductions—Excar-
vation Today—Hops Mon-
day.

"I think I can safely say there will be no radical action on any rates at this meeting," said a member of the Transcontinental Freight Bureau last night. "But there is a good deal of work to do to true-up the rates, and I do not think we will be able to complete that job the coming week. It is by no means unlikely that we shall be here for two weeks yet. We meet so seldom that we cannot afford to leave this town only half done now."

The bureau continued consideration of the tariff sheet yesterday morning. No shippers appeared to make representations or arguments for reduction of rates. In the afternoon the work of the bureau was carried on by committees; that is, the bureau itself was not in session, but a number of rates that affected the business of certain lines were referred to committees of representatives of those lines to struggle with the details, and those committees worked yesterday afternoon. Their reports will be acted upon by the bureau before the new rates will be embodied in the tariff sheet.

The tariff sheet will be thoroughly gone over before the regular docket will be taken up. Many of the items on the docket will have been taken care of in the revision of the rate sheet, rendering no further action upon them necessary. Others will be difficult to settle. A man qualified to speak for the bureau said last night that there was no general scheme either to raise or to reduce rates and that no such general effect would result. The readjustment is to eliminate inconsistencies in rates rather than to make new rates. As there will be some reductions so there will be advances in certain instances. In most cases of advances the change will be brought about by a closer definition of commodities and to certain ratings. Some commodities now get into lower classifications than they were intended to be put, through loose wording of the tariff, the shipper, of course, always insisting on the lowest rate he can find warrant for in the authorized sheet.

Today the members of the Transcontinental Freight Bureau and their families and local railroad men will take the ex-cursion up the Columbia River on the steamer Harvest Queen, by invitation of President Mohler, of the O. R. & N. Co. Fine weather is promised and the visitors are looking forward to a delightful trip. The steamer will return to Portland about 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Tomorrow the bureau will resume consideration of the rate sheet. Arrangements have been made for hearing a petition of the hopmen for a reduction of the transcontinental rate on hops.

NEW TRANSCONTINENTAL SCHEME.

Goulds and Clark said to be Laying
Plans Together.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22.—The Examiner says that every indication points to the belief that a big railroad and financial deal is the talk of the week. George J. Gould's Missouri Pacific system will gain an entrance into San Francisco. Three Pontotow, F. S. Bullock, one of his partners in several enterprises, and Senator Clark, of Montana, are reported as being connected with Gould in his scheme to extend the Gould railroad system west from Salt Lake to San Francisco. Gould will make the tour of the coast next month. While in this city he will be a guest of Pontotow and William H. Crocker.

The alleged railroad scheme is said to contemplate the erection of a line depot and hotel on Market street in this city. Then, as the story runs, a railroad will be run south to the San Mateo County line, either by means of a tunnel or an elevated line. From there on a road will be built to Los Angeles to connect with the line Senator Clark is building to Salt Lake. At the San Francisco end, Clark's road will connect with the Rio Grande system to Denver. At Denver it connects with the Missouri Pacific to St. Louis. From the Missouri Pacific to Toledo Gould owns the Wabash road, which is now being extended to Pittsburgh.

It is rumored that the proposed Bay & Coast Railroad to Santa Cruz is involved in the Gould-Pontotow scheme. The extent of giving the Gould road part of their entrance into the city and County of San Francisco, with a branch to Santa Cruz.

When Prince Pontotow was confronted with the outline of the rumored big railroad deal, he positively denied that he was interested in any such scheme. "If nothing is published new to be added, I may be able to give out a definite story."

Mr. Bullock, who is an Eastern railroad builder, when interviewed, said he could give no details, as publicity was likely to spoil negotiations now in progress. "Myself and others," he continued, "are acting for other parties, perhaps a syndicate. W. H. Crocker is not interested. While there is something in the story, it is premature at this time."

Mr. Crocker confirmed the statement that he was not interested in the matter. Senator W. A. Clark, of Montana, is rapidly completing the final surveys for his San Pedro-Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad. From the reports of Chief Engineer H. Hawgood, it is known that the approximate length of the line between San Pedro and Salt Lake City will be 300 miles. Six hundred miles have been surveyed and a portion of the road built. It is estimated that by paying cash instead of raising money by a bond issue, the road can be built and equipped for \$20,000,000. Cash is being raised by assessing the stock.

D. L. & W. to Pension Employees.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Announcement has been made by the management of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad that a pension system will be placed in effect March 1 for the benefit of employees. Under the plan, as arranged by President Truesdale, any employee engaged for 25 years in any capacity in the operation of the railroad proper, who has performed his duties faithfully, is to be retired at 65 years of age and receive a monthly allowance proportionate to the pay which he was drawing and the length of his service.

Railroad Notes.

All the city ticket offices in Portland were closed yesterday in celebration of Washington's birthday and travelers had to buy tickets at the Union Station. General Passenger Agent Lomax, of the Union Pacific, has notified the Transcontinental Passenger association that the Union Pacific system will place in effect to Portland the same fares authorized for Tacoma on account of the Young People's Christian Union of the United Presbyterian Church, which will meet in the Puget Sound city in July. The effect of this action will be to apply the Y. P. C. U. rates through Portland, an arrangement which the Northern lines had declined to agree to.

Eastern railroads that started out the first of the year to eradicate the pass evil have dropped back a peg. Their Portland representatives, who were instructed to pay their fares and not ask for free

transportation, have in the past few days been authorized to apply for transportation on the Northwestern railroads on the understanding that the courtesy would be exchanged on all lines west of Buffalo. The chief end in view, it is presumed, was to weed out the free transportation to shippers, which had grown to be an unendurable burden, and this has largely been accomplished.

WANTED BY UNCLE SAM.

Two Eastern Oregon Men Are Placed
Under Arrest.

Deputy United States Marshal Roberts has returned from Eastern Oregon, where he arrested Frank Augustine, of La Grande, on a charge of violating the United States Internal revenue laws, and George W. Simmons, of Enterprise, charged with violating the United States statutes referring to perjury. The two defendants were placed under bonds and will be allowed to remain at their homes until the time set for their examination before the next United States grand jury, which has not yet been announced.

Frank Augustine, arrested at La Grande, is charged with manufacturing and selling cigars contrary to the provisions of the revenue act. He bought a cigar store, and failed to make the

proper statement and to file the required bond with the Government. His bail was fixed at \$500.

George W. Simmons, of Enterprise, is charged with violation of the United States statutes referring to perjury. He gave bonds, and his case was postponed for examination by the United States Commissioner at Lake, pending the arrival of testimony from Washington. Simmons homesteaded a claim, and it is alleged that he made false statements. The examination was commenced before the Commissioner, but the official before whom Simmons is said to have made the statement was unwilling to testify, and the original papers in the case were sent from Washington.

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COUNTY HAS 40 PRISONERS.

Winter Crop of Criminal Offenders
Shows Falling Off.

There are now 40 prisoners in the County Jail, which is less than have been confined there for several months past. The winter crop of criminal offenders is falling off. The average monthly expense of the jail, including the board of prisoners, is a little more than \$600. Five years ago it ran from \$300 to \$1200 per month. The placing of the District Attorney on a salary has served to cut down the expense, as arrests are no longer made for the purpose of making fees. The law permitting the District Attorney to file informations also helps to lessen the jail expense, for the reason that accused persons do not have to be held in jail waiting for a grand jury to meet. The District Attorney can take up the cases at once and dispose of them.

WORK ON A HOLIDAY.

Deputies in County Clerk's Office
Keep Busy With Registration.

While yesterday was a legal holiday, the deputies in the office of the County Clerk were all at work having plenty to do to keep them busy. The registration of voters is also busy. County Clerk Swetland states that the men in the registration department will also be employed today, and this evening so as to finish the work of checking the registration as soon as possible, and then he will be ready to keep the office open every night. It is necessary to check up the registration to avoid errors. Mistakes in numbers are occasionally made, and even people who register sometimes give in their house numbers wrong. This is detected in various ways. Care must likewise be taken to see that each name is put in the proper precinct.

Cases on Trial Docket.

The following cases have been placed on the trial docket in the State Circuit Court, and will be set Monday by Judge Fraser:

L. F. Knudson vs. Morris Knudson.
M. Blumauer vs. Robert Hight.
Mary A. Kellher vs. County Court.
Milton Cook vs. County Court.
Peters & Roberts vs. W. P. Fuller & Co.
W. F. White vs. J. H. Woodward and Ainsworth, bank garnishes.

O. V. R. N. Co. vs. J. H. Oatman.
H. G. Platt vs. J. B. Yeon.
Estelle Mayer vs. Phil Neils.

There are already 24 cases on the trial calendar, extending along to March 15.

To Decide Reward Case.

Judge George will announce a decision Monday in the matter of the contest of Edward King and Mrs. Anna Whitlock for the reward in Wade and Dalton case.

TO BREAK CIGARETTE HABIT

Work of the Albina Boys' Brigades
Among Young Boys.

C. R. Donnell, who has charge of a Boys' Brigade in Lower Albina, says that one of the important things accomplished through the brigade is in breaking off the cigarette habit of boys. He says, however, that this is the most difficult thing that he has had to contend with. It is one of the rules of the brigade organization that the members shall not smoke nor use tobacco in any form, and Mr. Donnell says a considerable number of boys who come to the brigades had already acquired the cigarette habit and had to be broken of it. This has been accomplished, and it is his judgment that in this line the work of the brigade had been most excellent.

In Multnomah addition the big building erected there for the benefit of the boys by N. H. Maxwell has had a most excellent effect in keeping them off the streets. To gain membership they have to comply with wholesome regulations, and they are willing to submit. The community has much to thank Mr. Maxwell for in putting up this building and starting this work among the boys in that part of Portland. Instead of spending the evenings on the streets, a large number of boys are to be found in this hall.

For quality, purity, bouquet and healthfulness there is no wine as good as Cook's Imperial Extra Dry Champagne.

SQUARE IT WITH JOSSES

CHINESE GIVE THEIR LAST NOISY
NEW YEAR'S BLOW-OUT.

Hundreds of Dollars' Worth of
Crackers Exploded, and All Good
Chinks Feel Better.

The Chinese New Year celebration went out in a blaze of glory last night, when the Dook Chan exploded several hundred dollars' worth of firecrackers in front of the club's headquarters on Second street between Stark and Oak. It was the token of the clan of gratitude to the affiliated Josse for prosperity during the past year, and was an offering for future continuance of the era of plenty. Persons in the vicinity of the Chinese quarter at 7 o'clock last night were startled by the din of the explosions, and in a few minutes a large crowd gathered on Second street near Stark to witness the remainder of the fun. For over half an hour the noise kept up, and the length of the street was lined with happy Chinamen, while lighted lanterns beamed joyously down on the

religious hymns to coon ditties. And out of the cloud of tobacco smoke would occasionally come a guttural grunt of approval, as some particularly fetching refrain began to emerge.

The amount of money spent in celebrating the New Year cannot be even estimated with any degree of accuracy. From opinion gathered last night, from \$2500 to \$3000 was spent for firecrackers alone. Even the lowliest coolie had one or two ropes at \$5 per, while the more prosperous literally burned money up in bunches. During the two weeks after the New Year, the Josse, but no special services were held, each supplicant for prosperity making his individual offering alone, and at such time as suited him.

MANY BIDS OPENED.

Port of Portland Commission Has a
Busy Day.

Bids for the new dredge sleeves, pontoon pipes, and the auxiliary machinery of the new 30-inch dredge, were opened at a meeting of the Board of Port of Portland Commissioners yesterday afternoon. The bids for the sleeves were as follows:

Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Company, \$175 per set for 26 sleeves. The terms named were 60 days, or 2 per cent off for cash.

Goodyear Rubber Company, for 36 sleeves, \$225.

New York Belting & Packing Company, \$200 per lineal foot for rubber connections. This company was not prepared to bid on the nipples and flanges.

Crane Co., for 36 rubber connections as follows: Skookum, \$12; Reliance, \$117; Seal Rock brand, \$111. These connections will, the latter stated, be made on the coast. The Bowers Rubber Company, of San Francisco, will manufacture them, and also the nipples.

Charles Gauld, for 36 sleeves, at \$21 per running foot. The sleeves are to be manufactured by the Gutta Percha Manufacturing Company, and are to be guaranteed. This bid was considered by some of the bidders present as very low.

For the 20 wooden pontoons, the bids were as follows:

Portland Shipbuilding Company \$500; Joseph Paquet, \$550; Joseph Supple, \$850.

Bids for 20 lengths of discharge pipe, 22 feet long, and one discharge nipple, were as follows:

Trenkman & Co., \$380; Springfield (Ill.) Boiler Works, \$394.31, not including the cost of shipment, freight charges, etc.; Bawise & Strow, \$500 for pipe, \$15 for discharge nipple, \$170 for 144 drawbands, and \$20 for 180 machine bolts.

For the auxiliary machinery for the new dredge the Willamette Iron Works offered a bid for \$23,000. The bidder refused to accept the penalty clause on account of the uncertain date of delivery of material from the East, but stated that it would do all in its power to prosecute the work. The latter suggested some changes in the machinery, such as steel for cast iron and cast iron for steel, and stated that if these modifications were accepted, the company would reduce its bid to \$20,000. The company was unable to secure figures on the electric light plant for the dredge, as the principal manufacturers do not make compound engines of the size required by the specifications. On the discharge pipe and nipple the company bid \$500.

As yesterday was a legal holiday, consideration of all the bids was postponed until the meeting of the board on Monday afternoon.

A SMOKER'S DELIGHT.

"La Herolita," Worth Three for 50c—
Handley & Kelly Price 10c Straight.

"La Herolita," one of the best Havana cigars manufactured, sold by most dealers at three for 50c, our price, 10c straight. The talk of the town. We sell another popular brand, commonly called at our price 2c, or six for 25c. Handley & Kelly's cut-rate cigar and news store, 221 Washington street, Perkins Hotel building.

In Interest of St. Louis Fair.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 22.—A party composed of officials of the World's Fair, left here at noon today for Albany, N. Y., where they will appear before the General Assembly in the interest of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The legislators of New Jersey, Rhode Island and Massachusetts will also be visited by the delegation.

Gold Brick Frauds in England.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—The American Consul at London has been supplied with information by the police as to a variety of gold brick frauds by American swindlers on people in England, according to a London dispatch to the Herald. The executives of deceased people all over

PIANO BARGAINS

\$75 gets a splendid square piano from us now.
\$60 will get another one.
\$125 buys a good upright piano in fancy walnut case.

\$150 will buy another one, largest size, in rosewood case.
\$175 will buy another one, large size, in beautiful mottled walnut.
\$200 will buy a good organ. We will take its price any time toward payment of a piano.

And several other bargains. These instruments are all in excellent order. You might say many dollars by investigating this. Remember the place—the only representatives of the Steinway, Emerson, Estey, Richmond, A. B. Chase and Starr pianos.

SOULE BROS. PIANO CO.

326 Washington St., Near Sixth.
Phone Main 677. Fine Piano Tuning.

Attracting Much Attention

Our fine assortment of DRAWING MATERIALS and SURVEYING INSTRUMENTS. Display in Third-Street Window.

In connection with instruments we have a large and well-selected line of Scientific Works, such as Field Engineering, Surveying, etc.

The John Barrett Co.

91 First Street

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DISTRIBUTORS FOR KEUFFEL & ESSER CO.

On Wednesday

Look out for our advertisement on the FIRST page. We will surprise you.

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