

STILL CROPPING

Fresh Municipal Scandals Every Day.

MANY RUMORS CURRENT

Selection of Investigating Engineer Is Criticized.

RESIGNATION HAS NO EFFECT

City Engineer Elliott's Act Does Not Work as Oil on Troubled Waters—Mayor Williams Has Not Named Successor.

The resignation of City Engineer Elliott is no oil upon the troubled waters of the municipal scandal. Fresh developments are cropping out daily, and in unexpected places. Rumors of the most sensational type are current on every street corner, but the most startling tales of all never get down to the streets. They stay up in the office buildings, and are told behind closed doors.

Censure is being heaped upon the members of the bridge investigation committee of the Council because it has employed Charles S. Bihler, of Tacoma, to expert the Morrison-street bridge. Mr. Bihler, who was formerly one of the Northern Pacific's engineers, was together with Howard C. Holmes, of San Francisco, employed by the city last November to scrutinize the bids submitted upon that same bridge. Technically, he was employed by Mayor Williams, but on recommendation of City Engineer Elliott. Mr. Bihler is now looking over the same plans which he helped recommend for acceptance to the Executive Board early in December last year. C. E. Rumelin, chairman of the committee, was authorized by the other members to engage the expert, and they had little to do with his selection.

Now Going Over Plans. Mr. Bihler is now going over the plans and specifications of the bridge. He has never had anything to do with the extra, which are the real subject of investigation. So far as the main structure itself is concerned, little doubt has been raised but that it is a good bridge. It is the alleged extraneous work, charged for the extra, amounting altogether to nearly \$50,000, that is seriously questioned.

Months after the contract was let to the Pacific Construction Company, of San Francisco, it was discovered that what was supposed to be a steel bridge would not be all steel, with wooden stringers, as called for in the plan accepted. One day the contractor was abruptly broached to the Executive Board. The contractors wanted \$37,140 for steel stringers. So the Executive Board, acting on the recommendation of the City Engineer Elliott, ordered the contractor to drop the expenditure of \$37,140 for that purpose.

Steel Came High. About 35 tons of steel went into these stringers. The price charged was in the neighborhood of \$12 per ton, but when men versed in bridge matters that this same steel could have been purchased for \$6 a ton. According to the contract, the contractors are to charge for all extra at the exact cost to them, including labor and 15 per cent for profit. Therefore, it is alleged that the contractors made nearly \$2,000 on the stringers.

Every member of the city government is stirred up over the condition of affairs. No one knows what will happen next. Mayor Williams declines to talk on the subject. Incidentally, he has not yet named the man who is to be City Engineer after January 1.

City Engineer Elliott was asked yesterday as to the truth of the report that he had been offered a share of \$5000 in the influence in getting the contract for the South Front-street bridge transferred from the Pacific Construction Company, of Everett, Wash., to the Pacific Construction Company, of San Francisco. He reported that Councilman C. E. Rumelin had made the offer.

"Was Charles E. Rumelin the man who made that offer to you?" he was asked.

Will Make No Statement. "I will tell all about that at the right time. I can't do so now," replied Mr. Elliott.

"Was any such proposition made to you?" "I can't say as to that, either. I have never said anything about such a proposal. Others might have been present at the time and repeated it, though, you know."

Mr. Elliott more than intimated, however, that during his administration several unsavory proposals have been made to him. "I wouldn't stand for them, and I didn't accept a single one," says he.

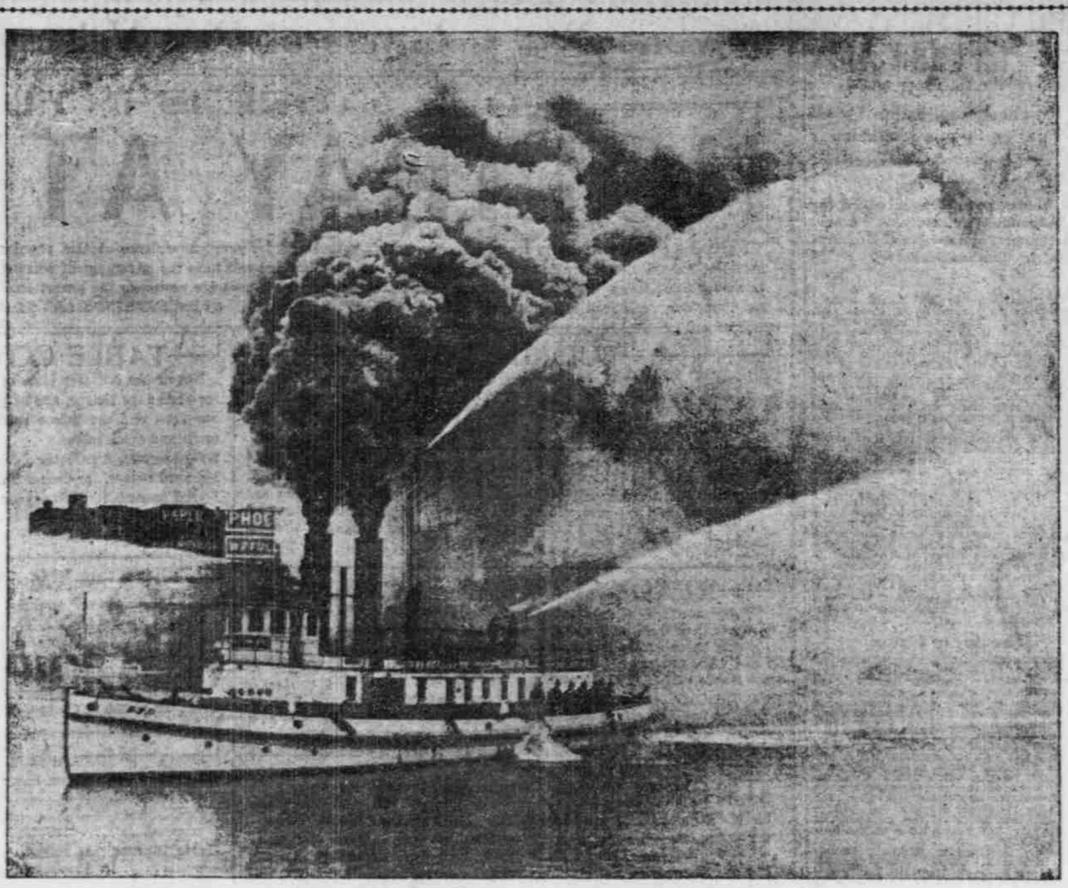
BATTERY WINS THE GAME.

Company E Indoor Baseball Team Badly Beaten.

Company E, which was defeated in a good game with F the other evening, was defeated again by Battery A last night in an indoor baseball game at the Army by a score of 20 to 8. The Battery had everything its way from the second inning, when it had 15 on the run for awhile and tallied five men. It got another streak one that in the fifth tallying four. This was too much for E, which was being whitewashed while all the early part of the stick work was being done. But it got the Battery basement wild a time or two and ran in men. F was easily put to the bad, for the men did not play together properly, and a few hits demoralized them. Both pitchers did good work, Dooly especially. Score by innings: Battery A.....1 5 1 0 6 1 4 2-20 Company E.....0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-8 Batteries—Battery A, Lyman and Jamison; Company E, Dooly and Fisher. Struck out—Lyman, 7; Dooly, 6.

THE INSTRUMENT OF SINGERS

The instruments with which our great singers thrill their audience is their vocal organ. It is therefore amusing to see some of our dealers worked up over the question of what piano is to be used by a vocal artist, as if there were not dozens of pianos satisfactory for such purpose. But it is for the pianist that the piano is of vital importance; in fact, to such an extent that our great players absolutely refuse to play on a mediocre piano. It is with such artists that the Krosser piano, with its wonderful tone, ranks first, according to the testimony of one of our greatest living pianists, "Leopold Godowsky. Another carload of these magnificent pianos just received by A. W. Meyer, 14 Sixth street.



FIREBOAT GEORGE H. WILLIAMS ON THE TRIP TAKEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE VISITING INSURANCE AGENTS.

PRaise THE BOAT

Insurance Men Say the George H. Williams Is All Right.

FAIR GROUNDS IN DANGER

Agents Declare System for Fighting Fire at Exposition Site is Inadequate, and Recommend Better Alarm System Be Installed.

The second annual meeting of the Special Agents' Association of the Pacific Northwest closed last night. The first day of the session was spent in inspecting the fireboat George H. Williams, and an inspection of the fire protections of the Lewis and Clark buildings. Yesterday the time was spent in the election of officers and listening to important papers read by T. J. Cunningham and F. J. Alex Mayer.

When it came to the election of officers there was a disposition among the members to re-elect the incumbent officers, but two of them could not serve and others were elected in their place. President Mayer also wished to relinquish his office, and he was about to make this known, when he was completely surprised by the members of the association presenting him with a magnificent silver loving-cup. Mr. Mayer tried to explain that he would rather see someone else have the office of president, but the members would not listen and he was re-elected. The other officers who will serve with him during 1905 are John W. Gunn, of Seattle, vice-president, and A. W. Whitmer, secretary and treasurer. With the new members elected at the meeting the association now numbers 51 members and 20 honorary members. The new members are Colonel D. B. Bush, W. B. Honeyman, W. L. Chalmers and Warren S. White, of Portland, and W. H. Lowdin and Colonel C. W. Kinna, of San Francisco, and E. W. Crosby, of New York.

Another interesting feature of the day was the report of the committees appointed to report on the fire protection at the Lewis and Clark Fair grounds, and the fireboat. The report on the fire protection at the fair grounds is particularly severe, for it declares emphatically that the fire protection is inadequate. The report is as follows: "After a careful inspection of the Fair grounds we find that the buildings are progressing and the grounds are being improved in good shape. As the present time, in the event of a fire, special ones being necessary to turn on hydrants. Pressure on these hydrants is very light. This difficulty could possibly be overcome by placing a large storage tank upon the hill adjoining and southwest of grounds. Numerous standpipes throughout buildings are of four-inch diameter, with sufficient hydrants, but the hose is very poor, unlined, and not approved. Water mains are of thin steel construction, and will doubtless leak considerably in the event of high pressure being applied thereto. A very necessary feature is the immediate installation of the fire department apparatus, for at the present time, in the event of a fire, it would take the nearest engine considerable time to arrive. Also a fire alarm system should be immediately installed, as the firemen in charge must depend on telephone at present. W. B. ROBERTS, CHARLES B. THOMPSON, T. J. CUNNINGHAM, Committees.

The following is what is said of the fireboat: "F. J. Alex Mayer, President B. A. A. P. N. Portland, Or.—Dear Sir: We, the undersigned committee on inspection of the fireboat George H. Williams, beg leave to report. Arrangements having been made previously, the boat left the station at East Portland at 10:45 A. M., under the supervision of Chief Campbell, and steamed down to the Portland Flouring Mills, and thence up the river to Jones' sawmill, arriving there in 23 minutes from the Burnside-street bridge. During the run back the pumps were worked, throwing several strong streams from 150 to 200 feet. The run down the river occupied 18 minutes, during which time the two water towers and several other streams were worked. The 34-inch nozzle discharging a jet of water to a distance of 300 feet. We wish to call particular

REAL ESTATE ACTIVE

SEVERAL GOOD SALES RECORDED LAST WEEK.

Residences Are Going Up on the Heights and Nearer Suburbs, as Well as in Older Section.

There were a few movements in the real estate market during the past week which were interesting. Upper Alder street, which has been left untouched for a long while, received a sale. E. House sold a lot on Eleventh and Alder for \$17,000. There are upon the lot three small houses. The purchaser is P. J. Mann. L. L. Leadbetter bought the Markle house, on Portland Heights, for \$28,000. W. G. McPherson took an option on a lot on the northwest corner of Seventh and Burnside for \$15,000.

SHERIFF WORD RETURNS.

Says Policy of His Office Will Remain the Same.

Sheriff Word, accompanied by his wife, returned yesterday from a two weeks' visit to California, the object of which, Mr. Word says, was to improve his wife's health and for a little recreation. They visited Marysville, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Pasadena and Riverside. The Sheriff says he inspected the jails, and speaking of the one in Los Angeles, said: "Los Angeles has a magnificent Courthouse and Jail, and Sheriff White has three times as much help as I have. You know he visited me here not long ago and at that time he said he did not know how I kept the prisoners in such a jail as we have in Multnomah County and was surprised that there are not more slot machines in operation in Los Angeles County, not even the cigar machines. There is a little poker-playing, that is all; no gambling. The slot machines are running in San Francisco, and they play a little poker there."

Concerning the gambling situation in Portland, Sheriff Word said: "The policy of this office in the past will be

TRANSFERS FOR WEEK.

December 10	1,700
December 11	2,715
December 12	9,532
December 13	22,372
December 14	2,552
December 15	14,633
December 16	14,633
December 17	54,178
Total	\$153,425

PERMITS FOR WEEK.

December 10	\$11,250
December 11	2,000
December 12	4,500
December 13	3,500
December 14	6,000
December 15	2,000
December 16	6,178
December 17	2,000
Total	\$38,300

HOLD-UP MEN ON TRIAL.

Bandits Who Robbed Albina Saloon Now Face Jury.

Charles Meehan, jointly indicted with Francis James and Henry McGloin for robbery in the Albina Exchange saloon, was placed on trial before Judge Cleland and a jury yesterday afternoon, and the trial will be concluded Monday. The men entered the saloon one night three weeks ago and held up the bartender, J. W. Clark, and several others who were in the place, and compelled Clark to open the safe. They got about \$20 in cash. James pleaded guilty but has not yet been sentenced, and McGloin turned state's evidence. The arrest of the young men was accomplished by Detectives Kerrigan and Snow, and a strange fact in connection with the case is that one of the revolvers used in the hold-up was loaned by Detective Snow to Mr. Feranda, who was a partner of James in the vaudeville business. Feranda and James were doing a turn together at the Bijou Theater, and Feranda asked Detective Snow to loan him a pistol to use in the act, and Snow did so. Feranda gave the pistol to James, and the hold-up trio obtained a second revolver from Harry Thomas, a colored man, also known as Handsome Harry, who conducts a saloon at Second and Flanders streets. He was brought to the police station after the robbery, and took advantage of a convenient opportunity to run away, and has not been seen since. The witnesses who testified at the trial were James, McGloin, Clark and R. B. Schroeder. The evidence disclosed that the three participants in the hold-up met in Handsome Harry's saloon. McGloin stated that he had never seen Meehan or James before. They picked up an acquaintance, and then went to Handsome Harry's saloon and hatched the plan to commit the robbery. Handsome Harry borrowed another gun for them to use. After the commission of the crime they returned to Handsome Harry's saloon, and the plunder in a room over the saloon. Meehan, with the assistance of his attorney, John F. Watts, will try to prove an alibi. Meehan has made three lucky escapes from the penitentiary within the past year. He was arrested on a charge of attempting to rob Harry Kenney, a saloonkeeper, and beat the case. He was tried and acquitted at St. Helens on a charge of change, and he escaped conviction recently in the State Circuit Court in Portland on a trial for burglary in entering a saloon at Troutdale, on a technicality.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD.

Mystic Shriners Choose Officers and Listen to Reports.

The annual meeting of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, was held last evening, at the Masonic Temple, corner Third and Alder. The following are the officers elected for the ensuing year: Illustrious potentate, George H. Hill, re-elected for the third time; Illustrious chief assistant, D. W. Taylor; Illustrious rabbi, Hansant rabban, J. G. Mack; high priest and prophet, L. G. Clark; Oriental guide, Archie Thurlow; treasurer, J. M. Hodson, and recorder, E. G. Whitehouse, re-elected for the 15th time. Representatives to the imperial shrine: J. G. Mack, Sigmund Sichel, John H. Hall and G. M. Hyland. The illustrious potentate, George H. Hill, announced the following appointive officers: First ceremonial master, Robert Lutke; second ceremonial master, D. G. Tommasini; director, E. P. Moffett; marshal, A. H. Willitt; captain of the guard, C. F. Wigand, and outer guard, Howard Davis. The annual reports of the recorder and treasurer presented the condition of Al Kader Temple in a very flourishing condition. There were during the past year 55 candidates initiated into the mysteries of the shrine, and the total membership amounts to 771. During the year the shrine lost by death a number of old-time and honored members: A. C. Lawrence, G. R.



MEN IN COMMAND OF APT TURRET. Reading from right to left—C. Smith, Chris Nickels and Captain L. Dolson.

refused occurred last week, when the \$23,000 offered for the quarter block on the northwest corner of Tenth and Washington streets, belonging to the Holman estate, was turned down.

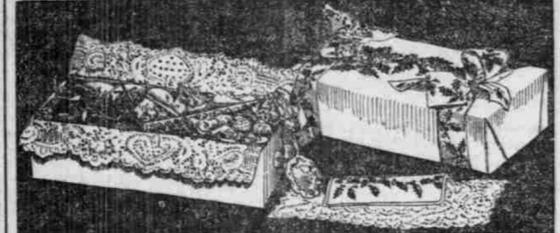
The building permit issued last week show that just now there is very little new building going on. That is a usual condition at this time of year. After January 1 the activity will begin once more. At present the price of lumber is very low, but soon it will begin to rise, and when the rise comes there will be a panic of building by all those who intend to build

continued in the future, without any change whatever. The law will be strictly enforced. Any rumor to the contrary is without foundation. The gambling-houses will be kept closed."

Hospital Ship and Transport Collide. MOJI, Japan, Dec. 17.—The Japanese transport Manshu and the hospital ship Robilla were in collision today off Shimoneseki. Both were damaged. The Robilla was beached and the sick and wounded soldiers were safely landed.

A Dainty Christmas Gift

You are in doubt what to send your friends as an Xmas remembrance—something inexpensive yet expressive of the "yuletide" spirit.



Our Special Holly Box

With a handsome spray of holly leaves and berries embossed on the top in natural colors, and tied with two dainty bows of ribbon is just the thing. The box is carefully packed in three divisions, one with French fruits, another with delicious chocolates, and the third with an assortment of dainty creams and bonbons. The whole prettily decorated with gaudy violets, silver drapes, etc. Over the top is a lace paper mat, bon bon spoon and Christmas card.

The Most Attractive Package of Xmas Sweets Possible to put up, and a most acceptable gift. The candy is absolutely fresh and pure—made in our own factory. Put up in two sizes—60 and 120. Sent by mail, securely packed, on receipt of cash or \$1.00. Safe arrival guaranteed. Money back if not entirely satisfied.

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RELATIVES ARE FOUND. DROVE FAMILY OUT.

Remains of William A. McEwan Are at Last Claimed.

The remains of William A. McEwan lay unburied and unclaimed in the undertaking establishment of Dunning, McEntee and Gilbaugh, for two weeks. Until a notice published in The Oregonian last Monday reached his children in Bellingham, Wash. As soon as they learned of their father's death they arranged to have his body shipped to his old home at Bay City, Mich.

William A. McEwan was an old man who had been injured in a sawmill near Carrollton, Wash., and had been sent to Portland, where he died. Nobody knew the whereabouts of his family. Mr. Dunning, of the undertaking establishment mentioned, finally told The Oregonian of the unclaimed body and the notice of the fact which was published came to the man's son, T. A. McEwan, and his daughters, Mrs. James Van Duzee and Belle McEwan, all living at Bellingham. The man's brother is a lumber manufacturer of Bay City, Mich., and has twice been Mayor of that municipality.

FOR Smokers' Sets

In Wood or Metal. See SEVEN CIGAR STORES.



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