

LEVY VOTED FOR COUNTY BUILDING

Multnomah Will Begin Work During Year on \$500,000 Structure.

TAX FIXED AT 20 MILLS

Property in Portland Will Have to Bear Burden Over One-Fourth Greater Than in 1908 to Meet Demands.

Provision for taking up the construction of a new \$500,000 courthouse for Multnomah County was made in the county tax levy, fixed yesterday by the County Court, and Commissioners at 20 mills.

Actual work on the new structure, which is to be of steel and modern in every respect, will be under way inside of three months, so it is planned. Preliminary specifications were ordered drawn immediately and a special meeting of the Commissioners for all county officers, including the District Attorney, Assessor, Treasurer, Justices of the Peace, Constables and Superintendent of Schools. These officers are now gathered in the building to start the building this year. The Commissioners acquiesced in the report of every grand jury which has convened since the new grand jury system went into effect.

Raise \$338,000 This Year.

A levy of 15 mills was made to cover the first year of construction work. This will net approximately \$338,000 and is regarded as sufficient to complete the entire east side of the new building with a depth of 75 feet and a frontage on Fourth street of 200 feet, from Salmon to Main streets. When this work is done the present county offices will be moved into the partially finished building while the west portion is erected. In this way the heavy cost of transferring the county records and offices to temporary quarters will be eliminated.

While details of the building are yet to be determined upon, it has been decided in a general way as to the dimensions of the building. It will be four stories high and will occupy the entire block where the old courthouse now stands. There will be an inner court, 40 feet square. Provision will be made for all county offices, including the District Attorney, Assessor, Treasurer, Justices of the Peace, Constables and Superintendent of Schools. These offices are now gathered in the building to start the building this year. The Commissioners acquiesced in the report of every grand jury which has convened since the new grand jury system went into effect.

Wing Ready This Year.

It is believed that by the end of the present year the east portion of the building will be ready for occupancy. Another levy will then have to be made, doubtless, to complete the work, although the second levy probably will be smaller. The subject of style of architecture has not yet been gone into. This will be taken up at the meeting of Monday with Whidden & Lewis, architects. Plans and specifications completed, bids will be called for on materials and excavation work may be started as early as April, since the money will be on hand by the middle of March on the present levy.

Sixteen clerks were put to work yesterday afternoon extending the tax rolls. The levy is a trifle more than one-fourth higher than a year ago. The various demands made are: State levy, 1.3 mills; state school, 1.5; county, 3; roads, .97; library, .13; Port of Portland, 1.2; city, .85; school district No. 1, .47. The total valuation is \$28,157,726 for the whole county. Greenham will have the questionable distinction of paying the highest tax, the total levy, allowing for school and town, being 28 mills. St. John is next with a levy of 25.5, which is nothing unusual for that community, however. Where no levy is made for school purposes and the jurisdiction of Portland does not extend, the taxpayers get off at a total levy of 15 mills.

Tax Roll Ready Next Month.

The tax roll will be placed in the hands of Sheriff Stevens for collection about February 1. There may be some little delay, however, on account of the belated date of completing the levy. Taxes will become due February 15 and for prompt payments a rebate of 3 per cent will be allowed. This loss on rebates is very nearly balanced, however, by penalties of 20 per cent on belated payments. The man with \$1000 worth of property will

pay \$20 taxes this year, less 3 per cent for paying promptly. Last year the tax on \$1000 was \$14.20. Thus the man with a house and lot worth \$10,000, will pay an increase of \$38.80.

The question as to the new courthouse has been hanging fire for some time. Commissioners Lightner and Barnes and Judge Webster having hesitated at imposing the increased cost on a year of heavy levy. Many communications have been sent in, both urging that it be built and protesting at the increased burden but the sentiment has seemed to favor immediate building of the new county building. Without the courthouse the total levy would have been 14 mills, so that every taxpayer will pay the sum of \$1.00 on the new structure for every \$1000 of the assessed value of his property.

WILL GREET NEW MEMBERS

Commercial Club Newcomers' Committee Outlines Its Plans.

The Commercial Club newcomers' committee, recently appointed by President Hodson, met yesterday in the convention hall of the club, just after luncheon, for the purpose of organization. C. C. Craig, general manager of the Northwest Long-Distance Telephone Company, was chosen chairman of the committee, and Fred Muller, secretary of the Board of Trade, was elected secretary. In addition to the officers the following attended the meeting: Wells H. Harbutt, Robert Tucker, Frank H. Fogarty, Fred O. Jacobs, H. L. White, H. G. Beckwith, V. Vincent Jones, C. R.

PROMISING YOUNG PORTLAND SINGER.



Miss Ethel Davis. One of the most promising of the younger generation of Portland singers is Miss Ethel Davis, whose portrait is given above. Miss Davis, who, in addition to her vocal talent, is a skillful pianist, is a soprano of unusual sweetness and power. Her solos at the recent reception at the opening of the Y. W. C. A. were received with the highest signs of approbation. Miss Davis is a native of Portland.

Fargo, R. V. Holder, Harold M. Sawyer, A. Kittenbach, William McMurray, William H. Smith, W. W. Winwell, B. J. Josselyn, C. C. Colt and A. C. Anderson.

Those present discussed methods that should be carried out with a view to creating a better feeling of fellowship in the club, and to formulate a plan by which newcomers to Portland who may become members of the club shall be looked after and introduced to the older members and made to feel that they are welcome. It was suggested that this committee be made an auxiliary to the parent organization, and that one of the purposes of its existence should be to hold social meetings from time to time, to which new members shall be invited, these members being classified as those who shall have arrived in Portland within three years of the time they become members of the club.

Entertainments of various kinds were suggested to be fostered by the committee, which, while an auxiliary of the club, is not to have separate dues or other expenses connected with carrying out its objects, except as provided for by special assessment of its members. On Saturday night another meeting is to be held for further consideration of the matter and to select a distinctive name for the organization.

Come! Dance Tues. eve. Ringler's Hall. Attend Rosenthal's great shoe sale.

STATES CITY'S SIDE

Isaac Swett, of Executive Board, Talks Lighting.

SAYS COMPANY IS UNFAIR

Charges Power Concern With Extortion, and Trying to Force Long-Term Contract on City by Foul Means.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—Last the people of Portland do not fully understand the purport of the last meeting of the Executive Board, that met for the purpose of acting on the light question, I desire to offer the following explanation:

The company demanded these conditions:

1. That it be paid approximately \$30,000 that the city contained was not due the company.

2. That a contract be entered into to furnish light to the city for a period of five years.

3. That the price be that specified by the company.

4. That the company do not install extensions of lights for a greater distance than 600 feet from an existing light, the city in all cases exceeding 600 feet to install poles, wires, arms, etc.

The Executive Board responded in effect:

1. That every member of the board was honestly of the opinion that the \$30,000 (thereabout) was not due the company. That as representatives of the people it was their duty to protect them, and in view of this, from every moral and legal standpoint it was their duty to refuse payment. That if the company believed that money was due them, the courts afforded ample relief, and the board would, of course, abide by the court's decision; that it would be the rankest dishonesty if the board would dare pay the company money that every member of the Executive Board firmly believed was not due the company.

2. That in view of the fact that the Executive Board believed that the money was not due the company, and the disputes incident thereto, the board requested a segregation of the \$30,000 from the contracts of lighting the city; that these were separate and distinct matters, and should under the circumstances be acted upon separately.

3. That a contract to furnish light to the city for five years at the price the company demanded was unfair to the people of Portland, the price was too high and the period too long, and the bid made too indefinite and uncertain as to service to be rendered. The board believed that end of such a time be ready to light the city on much better terms, and to bind the city, and thus exclude others, would, it felt, work a positive injustice to the city. And the demand of the company that the city install and equip all new lights more than 600 feet from existing light would be very expensive, since the main demands for new lights now come from the surrounding districts, where most of the new lights would be more than 600 feet apart, and we would thus in effect be building the company's lines that they would in the future be fighting us with, since the company's plant and extensions are the more formidable as they are more extensive.

At the said Executive Board meeting were present the Mayor, every member of the board, Mr. Josselyn, of the company, and F. V. Holman, the company's attorney. The board stated that it could not pay the \$30,000, since it believed that the money was not due, that this ought to be considered separately, and that, therefore, it would request the City Council to pass an emergency contract for a short period, say to April 1, 1909.

That bids be then advertised for without regard to the \$30,000, which matter could in the meanwhile be settled by the courts.

The company by Mr. Holman and Mr. Josselyn then stated that the Council had no power to pass such emergency contract. Some of the members of the board are lawyers, and from a legal standpoint disagreed with that contention, but to give the company no plausible grounds upon which to stand, amended its motion by requesting the Council to pass an ordinance authorizing the board to pay the company monthly in advance, beginning with January 1, 1909, for all energy used in lighting the city, and pay the company the highest amount it then asked

for, and further that the company be not requested to put in any new lights. This left the company without any other demand to make without practically admitting that it was attempting to blackmail the citizens and upon the implied threat of leaving them in darkness and subject to life and property being endangered.

At the first part of the meeting, too, Mr. Josselyn stated with angelic consideration that the company was anxious to do all in its power to help the city out of the predicament it was in.

Now Mr. Josselyn is back from the meeting, gives the city two more days of grace and gives the citizens their choice of three propositions, in every one of which are included demands that Mr. Josselyn well knows were considered by the board to be extremely unjust and would be virtually blackmailing the people of Portland.

Do the people of Portland know that the Mayor had repeatedly asked the light company to show the city its books by which it was entitled to the \$30,000, then the city would immediately pay the money? That is the fact, and the company refused.

The city has continually contended that the company was not furnishing the amount of energy contracted for, and every member of the board thinks so; if it is not so, and the company does furnish the city with the power agreed upon, and the company honestly demands the money due it, then why not show these facts?

What construction can the ordinary person give to such a refusal? Is it not that the company is afraid to show its books lest they would prove that there was nothing of the present stand of the company to demand the \$30,000, is not this view doubly apparent? And in view of the refusal of the company to bring suit, when its books must be produced, does not that appear trebly the case?

As it stands, the light company practically says: "You people of Portland must have your streets lighted, you will be in fear of thugs and holdups, you must have light; now pay us what we demand or go in darkness."

ISAAC SWETT.

DEFENDS WOMEN'S BUREAU

MRS. BALDWIN WANTS POLICE SERVICE CONTINUED.

Will Not Ask, However, to Be Re-tained in Position as Chief of Department.

Mrs. Lola G. Baldwin, head of the women's bureau operated in connection with the Police Department, will make a strong fight for the continuing of the work undertaken by this branch of the service, but she announced yesterday that she will not ask the city authorities to retain her as the chief of the bureau, if there is any other woman more qualified for the position. Mrs. Baldwin stated that she will gladly lay down the work, if some one else is allowed to take it up and carry it on, but she is much opposed to abolishing the office, as certain Councilmen have threatened to do.

"I refuse to lobby for my position," said Mrs. Baldwin yesterday, "but I will appear before the ways and means committee Monday afternoon to defend the bureau and show its importance as a factor in the moral work of the city. I will not ask that I be continued as an officer at a salary, but I will urge that the department be maintained, and if there is any other woman better fitted, I am willing to give the position to her. The bureau has accomplished much for good, and should not be abolished. My annual report shows what has been done, and they can settle the matter on its merits."

Chief of Police Fritzmaier says that the work of the bureau justifies its existence, and he recommends that it be continued. However, he has not so stated to the Councilmen, and it is understood he will not be present to defend the work Monday afternoon.

SNOW IN WORKING DRESS

With Aid of Ocean and Sun, It Brings on Harvest.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—"O, my! I hate this wretched snow!" said a pretty young schoolmarm, on hearing school must close. "If it has to come,"

Superior Stove Specialties

Made of the Best Material With Highest Finish and Workmanship



SUPERIOR HOT BLAST
No. 112, 12-inch firepot. \$14.00
No. 114, 14-inch firepot. \$16.00
No. 116, 16-inch firepot. \$18.50
No. 118, 18-inch firepot. \$22.00



WOOD SUPERIOR
No. 18, takes 18-inch wood. \$13.00
No. 20, takes 20-inch wood. \$14.00
No. 22, takes 22-inch wood. \$15.50
No. 24, takes 24-inch wood. \$17.00



SUPERIOR STOVES ARE CLEANLY AND DURABLE—SAVE FUEL AND SMOKE—CONSUMERS



SUPERIOR RADIATOR.
No. 211, 11-inch firepot. \$24.00
No. 213, 13-inch firepot. \$26.00
No. 215, 15-inch firepot. \$28.00
No. 217, 17-inch firepot. \$32.00



IONE, WITH END DOOR
No. 118—Takes 18-inch wood. \$9.50
No. 120—Takes 20-inch wood. \$10.50
SONORA, WITH TOP FEED
No. 18—Takes 18-inch wood. \$8.50
No. 20—Takes 20-inch wood. \$9.50

Honeyman Hardware Co.

Fourth and Alder Streets, Portland, Oregon

she went on, "why doesn't it all come down at once with a flop and be done with it? Then the track could be cleared, so the streetcars could run and school could go on. I wonder if up in the sky there is not a sort of double-bottomed big reservoir made to hold all this snow, the lower bottom like a sieve, through which the snow comes when Providence pulls aside the covering place. Anyhow, I hate this snow. So there, now!" Her pretty mouth puckered in a bewitching way.

A little reflection, however, expressed in another way, may help to a different estimate of the snow.

Soon this snow will sink into the earth and go running about in every direction, looking for seeds and roots, all of them thirsty and ready to grow, but cannot until this snow gives them drink. This is particularly true of the wheat fields of Eastern Oregon, where it rains but little. This snow is by the sun drawn up from the ocean in a fine watery mist—millions of tons of it—where it forms into tiny rain drops, which freeze on the way down, coming as we have seen them the last few days, like countless white angels to do what they are directed for the seeds

and roots. When these seeds and roots get a good drink of this snow-water, they want to breathe, and the sun sends a small, long finger of fire down into the earth where the seeds and roots are. Then something inside (no one knows just what) begins to move.

If it is a grain of wheat, it swells bigger and bigger till it shoots a little green spear out of the ground into the air. Then it sends roots down below where it lies into the soil, and these keep drinking and drinking, the blades on the stalk breathing, the sun all the while keeping them bright and busy; till at length the wheat is ready to be harvested.

Here in the Willamette Valley the snow does the same for our strawberries, cherries, pears and apples, besides making pastures abundant and green for the cows that furnish delicious milk and the richest butter.

Hot Beer Burns Fatally.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—While attempting to mend a valve in a Brooklyn brewery, Frank Casper, an employe, was fatally burned by a torrent of boiling

beer. When the valve gave way the steaming beverage struck him in the chest, and he was found lying in a hot liquid unconscious by fellow workmen. At the hospital, to which he was rushed, it was said early today the injured man had little chance of recovery.

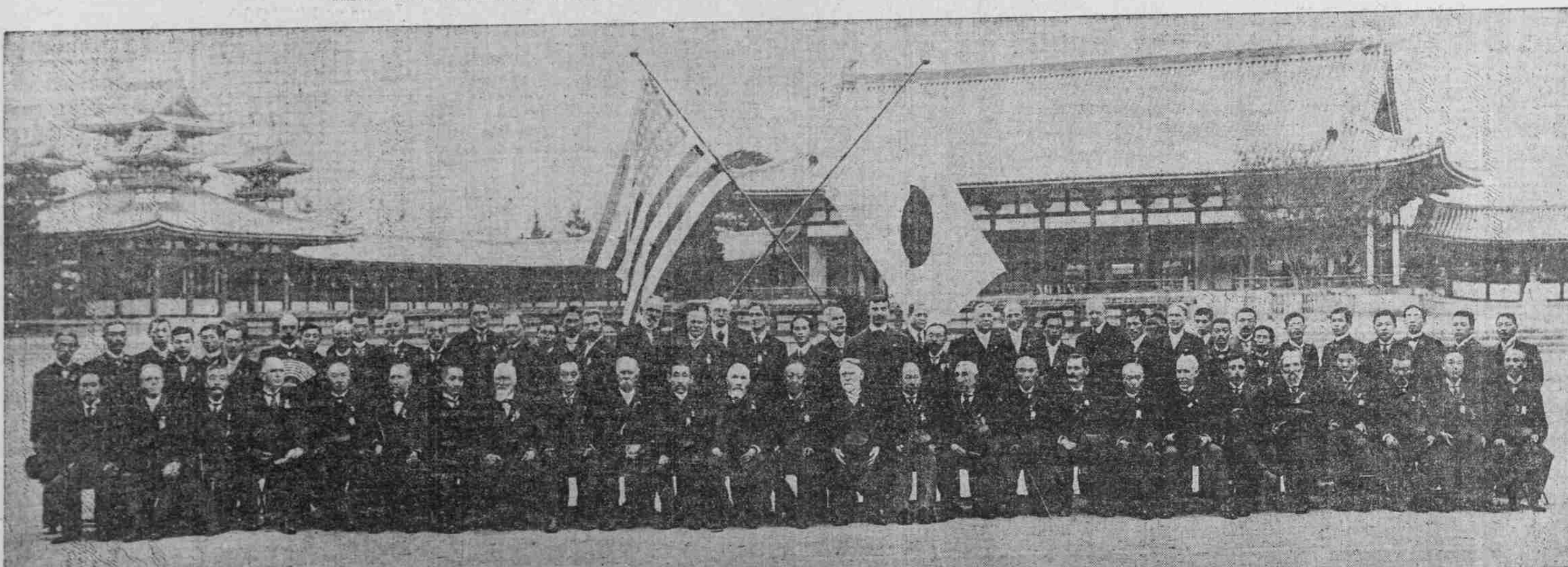
"Chicago Style" Gratitude.

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—Mrs. Foster Moore saved a man's life at a fire yesterday and now believes that in return he robbed her of \$500 worth of jewels. She found her in a hallway, apparently overcome by smoke, and succeeded in getting him to the street. Later she saw him running away from the building in a suspicious hurry, and soon afterwards she missed her valuables.

Tomorrow (Monday) will positively be the last day of discount for West Side gas bills.

Double-sole shoes keep your feet dry. Special sale prices at Rosenthal's. Come! Dance Tues. eve. Ringler's Hall.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION OF PACIFIC COAST CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, WITH THEIR JAPANESE HOSTS, AT KYOTO



Visiting Americans grouped in front of Ioen temple, accompanied by presidents and vice-presidents of chambers of commerce of Japanese cities. This picture is from a photo-graph taken in the city of Kyoto, Japan, on the occasion of the visit by members of the Pacific Coast Commission of delegates from the Chambers of Commerce. Portland was represented by O. M. Clark, who stands in the second row, the fourteenth from the left, and J. C. Friendly, in the same row directly under the Japanese flag. The buildings in the background are those of a Buddhist temple named Ioen, which is built in spacious grounds. Mr. Clark, in speaking of the religions of Japan, said on his return a few days ago, that many of the more intelligent Japanese he met said the people would more generally embrace Christianity if they could be satisfied which sect was preferable. As it is now, so many denominations are represented in the missions that the natives are at a loss to choose between them. In consequence, the ancient religions of the country still retain their hold on the people.