

E. P. FITCH FOUND; MYSTERY ENDED

Man Whose Disappearance in Europe Hastened His Brother's Death.

HE TURNS UP AT NAPLES

After Writing Letter on Way to London, Saying He Is Sick, Long Silence Intervenes—Sends for Money for Return.

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—Lost for four months in Europe, Edward P. Fitch, brother of Charles Fitch, who died last week in Portland, Or., has been heard from, and a mystery of international fame is near solution. Joy came to the mother and sisters of the missing man today when a cablegram was received from Naples, Italy, requesting that funds for his return home be sent to the American Consul.

Edward P. Fitch, who was secretary of the State Insurance Company of Nebraska, went to Europe on a trip for health and pleasure last summer, and was on the point of returning home when he was taken sick with appendicitis and hastened from Paris to a London hospital, for an operation. On the way from Dover to London he wrote a letter to his sister, telling of his intentions, and this is the last heard from him by his friends here until today.

The machinery of two governments was set in motion and a systematic search of the London hospitals was made, but entirely without avail. Money for his passage has been sent to the American Consul at Naples, from whom a further message is expected at once explaining his long silence.

HASTENED BROTHER'S DEATH

Fitch Drops Out of Sight on Way to London Hospital.

The mysterious disappearance of E. P. Fitch four months ago undoubtedly hastened the death of Charles Fitch, purchasing agent for the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, last week. He brooded over the strange mystery surrounding his brother's unknown plight and the very left him less able to resist the ravages of disease.

Edward P. Fitch was touring Europe last fall, when he dropped completely out of sight. Detectives of Scotland Yard, the police officials of France and the American consular authorities raked Europe for traces of the missing man, but without avail. Even his baggage had disappeared.

The last heard from him was on board a train to London. In this letter he wrote he had been attacked by appendicitis in France, but unable to speak the language, he decided to go to England, where he could make himself understood before submitting to an operation. He said he was then on his way to London, where he would

go to a hospital, and was giving the letter to a traveling companion to be mailed. The last part of the missive was incoherent, as if the writer were violently ill.

Two days later the letter was mailed in London. Mr. Fitch's family never heard from him again and could get no clue to his whereabouts. Investigation in London showed his baggage had disappeared and it was surmised some thug had recognized his helpless condition and killed him for what money he may have had with him. His ticket to return to America was never used and his family had despaired of ever hearing of him again.

The strange news that he is still alive may be accounted for by a prolonged illness or by the fact that he may have lost his identity and left England and been stranded in a country where he could not speak the language.

FERRY WOULD SAVE MONEY

CITY ATTORNEY COLLIER, OF ST. JOHN, GIVES FIGURES.

Says Contemplated Paving Would Cost Less and Urges Stray Vote on Buying Boat.

ST. JOHN, Or., Feb. 20.—City Attorney Collier, of St. John, has suggested that a straw vote be taken at the coming city election in order to find out the sentiment of the people on building or buying a ferry-boat. The Councilmen promised to bind themselves to act in accordance with the voice of the people in calling the special election to settle the matter.

The Legislature has authorized and directed the county to operate and maintain a "fit, suitable and commodious" boat to be provided by the city for a free ferry. This question is considered of supreme importance to the people for it is hoped to attract the trade of a population of 1500 or 2000 people living west of the town. The most important reason is said to be, however, that the city's rock-crusher is located across the river and an immense amount of street improvement is to be done this year on 90 per cent of which crushed rock will be used and for which the ferry charges will amount to one-third of what the company is asking for its present equipment.

Petitions are in and have been acted on calling for a 12-foot strip of crushed rock on 14 blocks on Hartman street, eight blocks on Oregon street, 16 on Buchanan, 15 on Charleston, 13 on Portland Boulevard, 17 on South Vancouver, seven on Wall, 12 on Stafford, eight on Montleith and eight on Alleghany street. Six blocks on Philadelphia, two on Tacoma and one on East Burlington streets are to be covered entirely. This means that 157 city blocks and street intersections will have all or part of their surface covered with rock.

City Engineer Andrews says this will take 10,000 cubic yards of crushed rock. A loaded wagon hauls one and a half yards at a load. This figures out over 6300 trips at 20 cents a round trip or \$2520 to be paid the ferry company for this amount of rock. It is considered certain that double this amount of streets will be improved and as Fremont street will likely be "rocked" for 15 feet each side of the car tracks for a distance of 24 blocks, it is urged that if the ferry company is not bought out, the people will have to pay over \$5000 this year, which would be saved if a free ferry is provided. The engineer's estimated cost for crushed rock in place is \$2.40 per cubic yard. With the ferry charges eliminated this could be cut to \$2.00, it is said.

HAY GOES TOO FAR, SO SENATORS SAY

Criticism of Seattle Speech Depends on Attitude on Local Option.

NORMAL ISSUE INVOLVED

Acting Governor Arouses Citizens of Ellensburg, Who Send Lawyer Post Haste to Capital to Keep Tab on the Situation.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—The report of Acting Governor Hay's local option speech in Seattle Friday night in which he scored the King County Senatorial delegation for standing out against reasonable local option, was not received here until the great majority of the members left for their homes for the week end.

The speech is commented upon by members in a spirit depending upon their attitude on the bill. Supporters of a stringent local option bill are pronounced in their approval, but those at whom the address might be considered as directly or indirectly applying assert that the Governor is carrying his own views to an extreme in trying to force the Legislature to enact laws in accordance therewith.

Among the liberal minded on the local option criticism of Hay has been severe during the last few days. Hay has been openly and insistently urging the enactment of an effective local option bill and has strongly criticized the Nichols Senate substitute.

Normal Issue Involved.

The Governor has been accused of inviting discussion of the necessity for the continuance of three normal schools in order to use that issue as a whip over members who are not voting on local option in accordance with his ideas. Whether or not this is true, the City of Ellensburg is thoroughly aroused and last night sent a prominent attorney of that city here to discuss the situation with Senator Smithson, representing that county. It is claimed that Senator Smithson is now in line for a stronger bill than the Nichols substitute for which he voted.

Members who, like Graves and Rosenbaum, have taken a middle ground, do not seem to be disturbed over the Governor's speech or his attitude, and the effect apparently has not been to weaken the ultra local optionists, although it is doubted if the Seattle address has strengthened it.

Compromise Is Planned.

A plan to settle the local option fight by appointing a conference committee to draw up a new bill assumed fairly definite form here today. Acting Governor Hay will probably call a preliminary conference of some of the members of the House and Senate Monday and on Tuesday it is the present plan to present a resolution providing for a committee consisting of five Senators and five Representatives.

The present details go so far as to

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name the members of this committee and the main features of the bill that will probably be agreed upon.

The bill is to embrace the country districts and fourth-class cities in each county in one unit; making first, second and third-class cities separate units; contain adequate enforcement features and provides for the first vote on the saloon question at a special election and at general elections thereafter upon petition of 20 or 25 per cent of the voters.

One Vote Needed in Senate.

The personnel of the committee, which is to be named in the resolution as now outlined, includes in the Senate, Graves, of Spokane; Fairbank, of Lewis; Falconer, of Snohomish; Smithson, of Lewis; and Cotterill, of King. In the House, Anderson, of Spokane; Todd, of Whitman; McMasters, of King; Scott, of Adams; and Lambert or Miller, of Whatcom.

The feasibility of the plan as one that will result in the passage of a bill acceptable to the majority in both houses rests in the fact that the proposed committee has a majority of members who

voted for the anti-Saloon League measure but who are willing to make concessions. The bill they prepare, it is believed, will satisfy the dry majority in the House, while in the Senate there is a necessity of gaining only one vote to secure the passage of a reasonable bill.

If the committee prepares a measure satisfactory to Smithson and Graves the necessary constitutional majority is secured in the Senate.

SCHOOL BOYS PLAY PRANK

Hide Books of High School Students in Gymnasium.

PENDLETON, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—When the High School students assembled at the usual hour this morning it was discovered that some time during the night the building had been invaded and all books carried out and thrown under the gymnasium, while notebooks and papers had been dumped promiscuously into a big box. Laments could be heard from

the owners of the missing and carefully prepared notebooks. Some one had had "such a good synopsis of Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress.'" Girls blamed boys for the prank.

Carriers Making Census.

GRESHAM, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—Acting under instructions from Washington, the rural letter carriers are making a complete census of their respective routes. Beginning March 1, all the carriers will have to keep an accurate account for three months of every piece of mail handled, together with the sales of supplies upon their routes.

Ready for Horse Ranch.

GRESHAM, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—C. A. Ruby & Co., the horse breeders who lately secured a large tract of land on the Base Line road, are making preparations to embark in their line of business on the most extensive scale ever attempted in Western Oregon. At an auction sale yesterday all the cows, numbering about 50, and all farm machinery was disposed of, so as to clean the ranch

for the large drove of imported horses which will arrive soon. Numerous improvements will be made on the place.

Condemn Realty Firm.

ROSEBURG, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—The Douglas County Fruitgrowers' Association in convention today passed resolutions strongly condemning a certain real estate firm of this city who, in their pamphlet describing this county, gave the impression that irrigation was necessary to the raising of good fruit crops in this section.

Pendleton Elks May Build.

PENDLETON, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—A permanent home of its own is now being planned by the local lodge of Elks. The matter was discussed at some length at the last meeting of the order, a committee finally being appointed to report on the project.

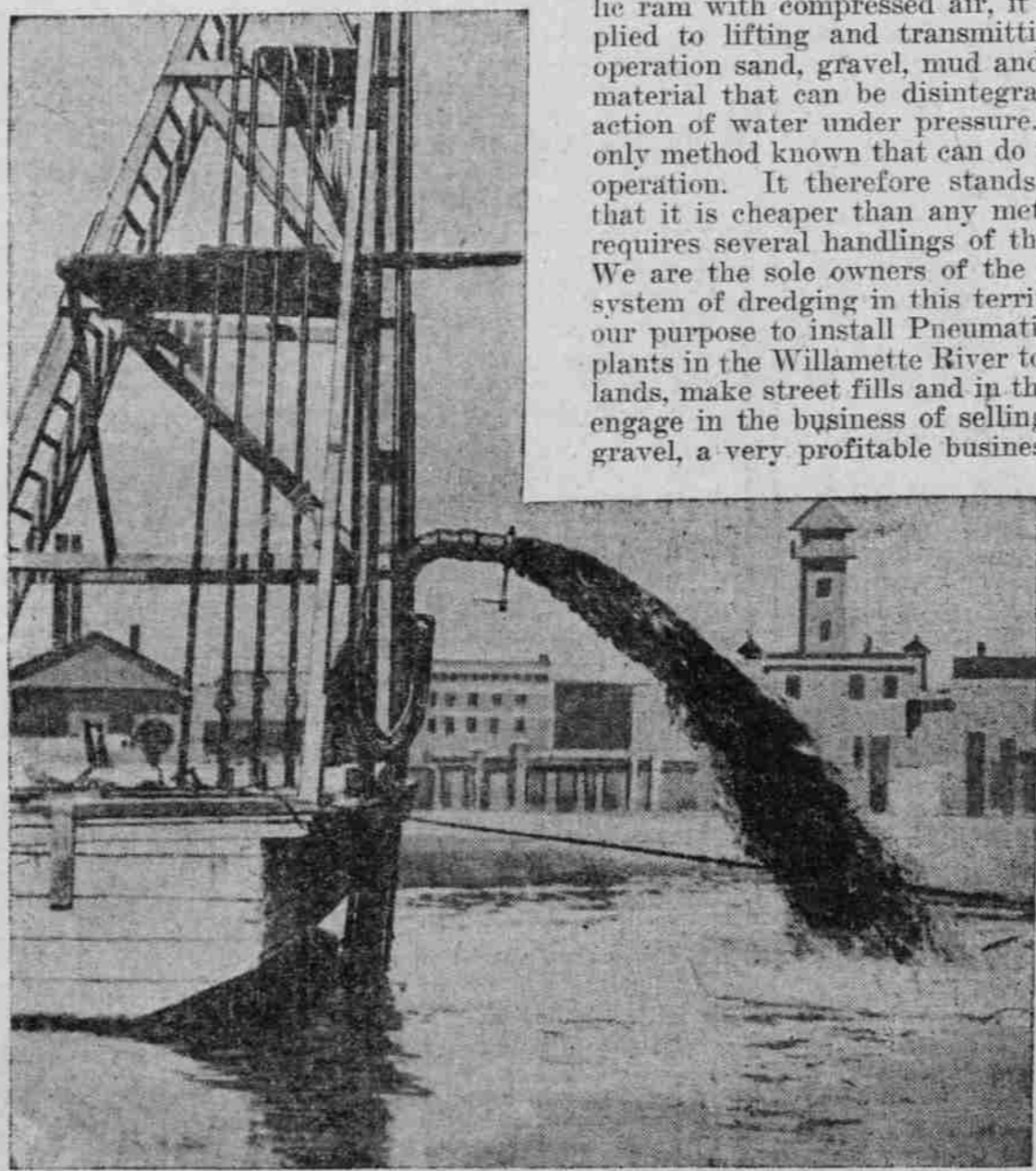
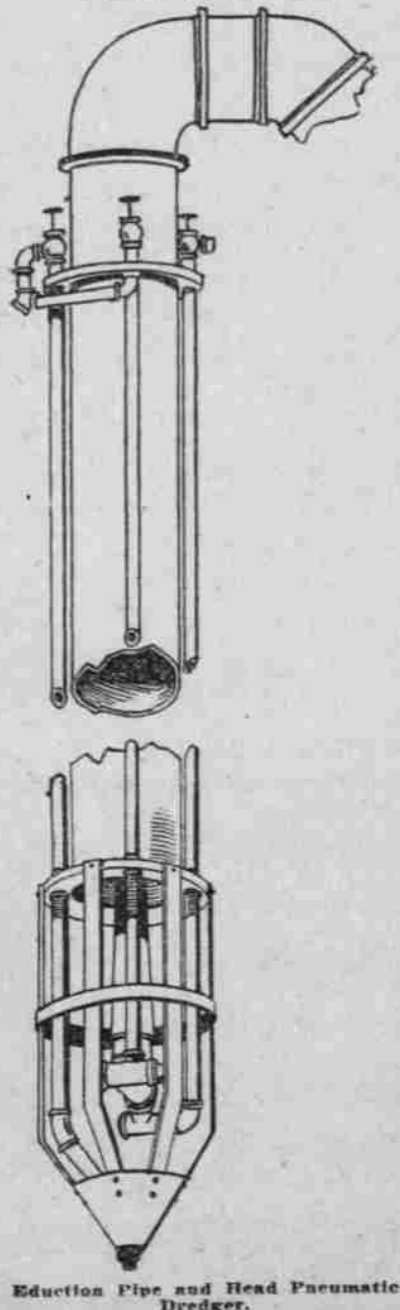
The Boy Who Churned.

What has become of the old-fashioned woman who put an apron on her boy and made him churn?—Exchange.

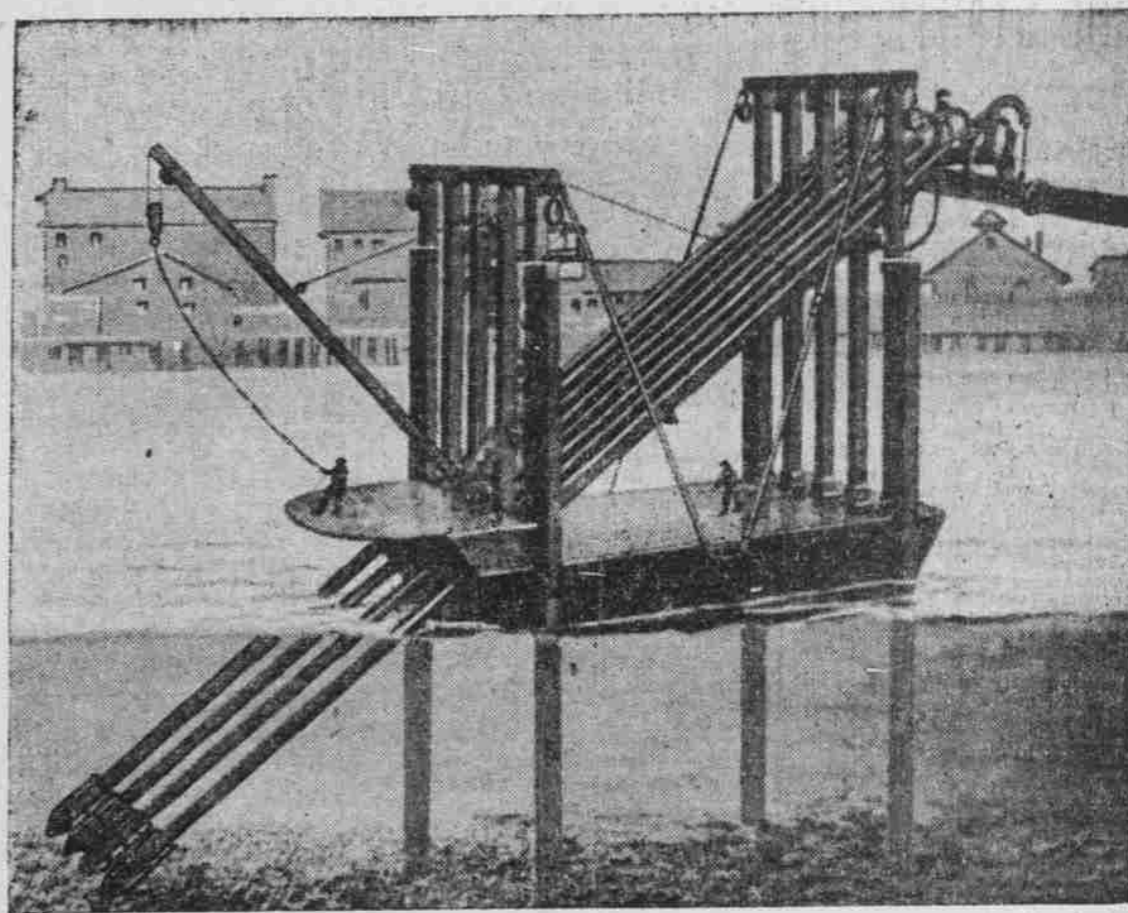
There Are Hundreds of Thousands of Yards of Dredging to Be Done in This Territory. The Pneumatic System of Dredging Is the Cheapest System in Existence Today

The initial cost is less, the cost of maintenance and operation is less than any other system, and it is a system that has been thoroughly tried out. For fifty years the air lift has been known to be the simplest and cheapest method used in lifting oil, water and salt from deep wells and transmitting these materials over long distances.

This is What Does the Work. There Are No Wearing Parts.



The photograph shows the 50-foot discharge pipe throwing a 10-inch stream, composed of water and nearly 50 per cent of solid matter in the form of sand and gravel. With the same power it has taken to raise the material as high as shown in the photo, the dredger is now discharging the material it handles a distance of 1000 feet through metallic pipes.



Battery of Four 10-inch Pipes Capable of Discharging 15,000 Cubic Yards of Earth Per Day.

If You Were Told You Could Have Laid Down in Portland, Absolutely Free of Cost, All the Wheat You Would Manufacture Into Flour, How Long Would It Take You to Start a Flour Mill?

What Is the Sand and Gravel Situation Here Today?

Millions of cubic yards of sand and gravel are washed down the Columbia and Willamette Rivers every year. These materials are free to anyone who will build the plant to dig, wash and screen them for commercial uses. They are as staple as flour in this market. With something like 500 miles of streets, 1000 miles of sidewalks yet to be paved and made, not to speak of the thousands of yards of these materials used in buildings, can you doubt the permanency of such a business?

Associated in this enterprise are some of Portland's ablest and most progressive business men. There is room for a few more, but only a few. We can show an investor there is 100 per cent profit in this enterprise as operated by us. Fullest investigation solicited.

COLUMBIA DREDGING, SAND AND SALVAGE CO. 246 STARK STREET W. W. CARLAND, Manager