FIREHOUSE TO RISE

Structure to Be of Brick and Most Modern Yet.

FIVE OTHERS TO FOLLOW

Building at Montgomery and Lownsdale Streets to Contain Reinforced Concrete Floor—Upper Story to Rival Home.

Six new firehouses planned for Portland probably more than any other improvements are indicative of the rapid strides being made by the city. As many of the structures as practicable will be constructed of brick, thus doing away with frame fire department buildings, many of which bear dates showing them to be relics of the city's early history.

Plans for the firehouse to be constructed at Montgomery and Lownsdale streets have been completed, and work on the structure will be begun within the next fortnight. Plans for the new East Side firehouse are in the hands of architects, and it is probable this building will be under way before the expiration of another month. With these the city has also appropriated various sums for the erection of firehouses at Third and Gliesan streets, Mount Tabor, North Albina and on a site near St. Vincent's Hospital.

The firehouse to rise at Montgomery and Lownsdale streets will be one of the most modern structures of its kind on the Pacific Coast, firehouses of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle being inspected before its plans were decided upon. It will be built entirely of brick, and its reigning feature will be something brand-new in firehouse construction; the whole first floor will be reinforced concrete, and every stall will be provided with plank flooring, kept in place by iron angles, permitting the flooring to be removed or renewed when necessary.

All seven stalls in the new firehouse will possess separate drains, this feature serving to make the building most sanitary, as well as modern. The structure will consist of two stories, a basement and a hosetower. The ground floor, besides providing accommodations for seven horses, will contain ample space for three pieces of fire apparatus. The upper story will be reserved as quarters for the firefighters, and as well will contain a commodious and tasty reception-room, which will serve as a parlor on occasions when the families of the firemen visit them on watch.

Off the dormitory on this floor will be a large sitting-room for the use of the firemen, and adjoining the dormitory, which will accommodate 14 men, a bedroom will be reserved for the captain of the station. An ample washroom fitted with a tub and shower bath and a locker-room will complete the second-story arrangement.

Completion of this structure will prepare the way for the construction of five other firehouses planned, and it is believed these will be under way before the close of the year.

THE CASE PLAINLY STATED

The Methods Necessary for Guidance of the Primary Law.

Polk County Observer.

To secure the best results in the government of a country, it is necessary that political parties be maintained. The reasons are so obvious that it is not necessary to state them. To maintain political parties, it is necessary that there be organization among those voters holding the same political views.

An objection to the direct primary law, on the part of those who oppose it, is that it destroys party organization. Here in Oregon, where the law has been given a practical test, we have seen parties disintegrated and their forces scattered. Under the plan pursued by the electors since the adoption of the law, it is impossible for a party to get its members together and formulate a platform of principles. The result is, no party has any well-defined principles. Each elector and each candidate is a platform unto himself.

Another objection to the law is that no candidate for office has the support and backing of an organized party, and each is obliged to shift for himself as best he can. The result is a free-for-all, "every fellow for himself, and the devil take the hindmost" sort of race. The self-nominated candidate is responsible to no one, and nobody feels any personal responsibility for the fate of the candidate. If he wins, the people applaud him; if he loses, they comfort themselves with the thought that they "didn't get him into it."

Still another objection to the law, and it is one that is well founded, is its increased cost to the taxpayer over the old precinct primary system. The direct primary puts the counties to the expense of holding two elections instead of one. Under the old system, the farmers took a half day off from their work, gathered at the district schoolhouse, elected their delegates to the county convention, had a social visit for an hour, and then went home. They enjoyed the brief holiday, and the county was not out a cent. Under the new system, expensive ballots are printed, judges and clerks are employed, and a lot of red tape is indulged in, with the result that the county treasury is left poorer by several thousand dollars.

Then there is the expense to the candidate himself. He cannot even hope for nomination or election unless he can bring his candidacy to the attention and consideration of the voters. This he must do either by a personal canvass of the state or by a campaign of newspaper or letter-writing advertising, both of which are expensive. If he makes a personal canvass, he is obliged to cover the state both before and after the primary. If he attempts to reach the voters by using space in all of his party newspapers, the expense is enormous, even if a reasonable rate is granted him by each publisher. If he undertakes the letter-writing or circular method, the cost is even more appalling. The cost of sending out one circular letter to the voters of the state is about $1500, and many of our readers will doubtless recall having received four, or even five, such letters from a single candidate in the course of a campaign. Yet, all of this expense is perfectly proper and legitimate, for the voters have a right to know how any candidate asking their support stands upon important public issues, and the candidate has no method of reaching them other than those outlined here. Running for a state office is Oregon is rapidly resolving itself into a rich man's game. The clearing smoke of every primary election discloses to view a sad list of "singed cats." The list is growing shorter with each succeeding election, however, for other aspiring, but impecunious, cats take warning and avoid the fire. Oregon is not noted for the high salaries she pays her officers (although it is possible she pays them all they are worth), and the poor man cannot afford to spend $10,000 or $15,000 in getting an office that pays only $3000 or $4000 a year. Only the rich can afford to do that. We are not saying that the rich man may not be as honest and as well qualified in every way for the office to which he aspires as is his less fortunate brother, but the fact remains that the people of Oregon have made state office-seeking a wealthy man's game.

Still another objection, and to our way of thinking the most important objection of all, is that a truly representative government cannot be maintained under the direct primary system. Under its workings, it is possible for a minority to rule a majority, a condition of affairs contrary to the very spirit of American institutions. The old convention system may have had its faults, but under its workings no man could be nominated to an office unless he received a clear majority of the votes of the convention. Under the direct primary law, it is possible for an aspirant to office to receive a nomination by the vote of a small minority of the people. Such a condition was never contemplated nor desired by the people when they adopted the law. On the contrary, it was the very possibility of such a thing they were trying to avoid. But the primary law, like many other rules and laws in this world, is one thing in theory and quite another in practice.

The foregoing are only a few of the valid objections that can be urged against the Oregon primary law, but they are sufficient to warrant its repeal, or, at least, a thorough amendment. But while it is full of fraud and buncombe as it now stands, it is law, and as such it should be observed as far as is consistent with honor and good sense.

Until such time as the people shall see fit to amend or repeal this law, the Observer favors the adoption of the advisory assembly plan now being urged in all parts of the state. To the writer's way of thinking, the only objectionable feature so far suggested in connection with this plan is the one placing the selection of delegates to the state assembly in the hands of the various county committees. A fairer and better plan in every way would be for these state delegates to be elected by the county assemblies by a majority vote of the electors present. The county assembly being open to every party voter in the county, selection of the state delegates by this method would remove any suspicion of jobbery or machine work. This would be far the better plan, and judging from all the expressions of opinion we have heard from committeemen and voters, it is doubtless the plan that will be adopted in Polk County.

THE WAR ON THE SALOON

Prohibitionists Claim Credit for Its Great Progress.

PORTLAND, Or., July 31.—(To the Editor.)—While occupying a room in Good Samaritan Hospital I have had sufficient time to peruse nearly every word of the Oregonian for many days. I wish to compliment you for many up-to-date ideas contained in your editorial Thursday, under the title "Light on Prohibition."

Behold the Oregonian do move! Not long ago we boozefighters had to endure such epithets as "prohibition claequers" and others more expressive of contempt. We passed the matter gently by, with these sweet and beautiful words in mind: "Forgive them; they know not what they do."

I am inclined to think the conditions you mention at Wahoo, Kan., are very exceptional, as compared with nearly all other localities in that state. Ex-Senator John J. Ingalls, the most brilliant man Kansas has ever produced, stated in graphic language that the regularly "licensed saloon had gone to join the troubadours, the crusader and the mound-builder."

The last paragraph of your editorial is exceedingly true, and deserves reproduction. "There is no question whatever that the saloon is losing prestige everywhere in the United States. Even in large cities it is not looked upon with quite the same favor it found 20 years ago. The business of the barkeeper is a little more disgraceful than it used to be. The saloon is less frequently spoken of as the poor man's club, and more often recognized as the poor man's ruin. Moderate users of liquor find it harder to hold their jobs than formerly. Competition is keener and the persons whose wits have been stupefied by liquor cannot keep up with the procession. No matter if he stupefies himself only a little, that little is enough to decide the issue. He drops out and some man who can control his appetite completely takes his place."

There is a very slight attempt on the part of the writer to explain what has brought about this marvelous change. No credit is given to Frances E. Willard, that God-inspired woman, who organized and marshalled the hosts of the W. C. T. U. Not a commendatory word for the few, but brave men, who for nearly 40 years have proclaimed the truth to the people of the United States, that the saloon is an unmitigated nuisance and ought to die.

Well, perhaps these things are unimportant. I think it can be substantially verified that the saloon is an outlaw in half the territory of this country. Two-thirds of the counties in this state have decided that whisky is a ridiculous, poisonous and superfluous beverage. The remaining third is ready to board the water-wagon when prejudice relaxes a trifle more, the rational therapeutics of prohibition is better understood, and the incubus of old social ideas is eradicated. The Oregonian is abundantly qualified and has control of a big live wire to give the people more light. "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed: but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light."

E. F. BRYANT.

Eastern Star Lodges Visited.

BAY CITY, Or., July 31.—(Special.)—Mrs. A. Antonette Stiles, of Portland, worthy grand matron of the Order of Eastern Star, of Oregon, was in Tillamook County this week visiting the chapters at Bay City and Tillamook. Schools of instruction were held at both chapters. On Monday evening Miriam Chapter at Bay City, gave a banquet in honor of their distinguished guest. A number of the members from Silver Wave Chapter, of Tillamook, were in attendance. She was given a splendid reception by the Tillamook chapter on the preceding Saturday evening. The worthy grand matron left for Newport Tuesday morning on her official tour.

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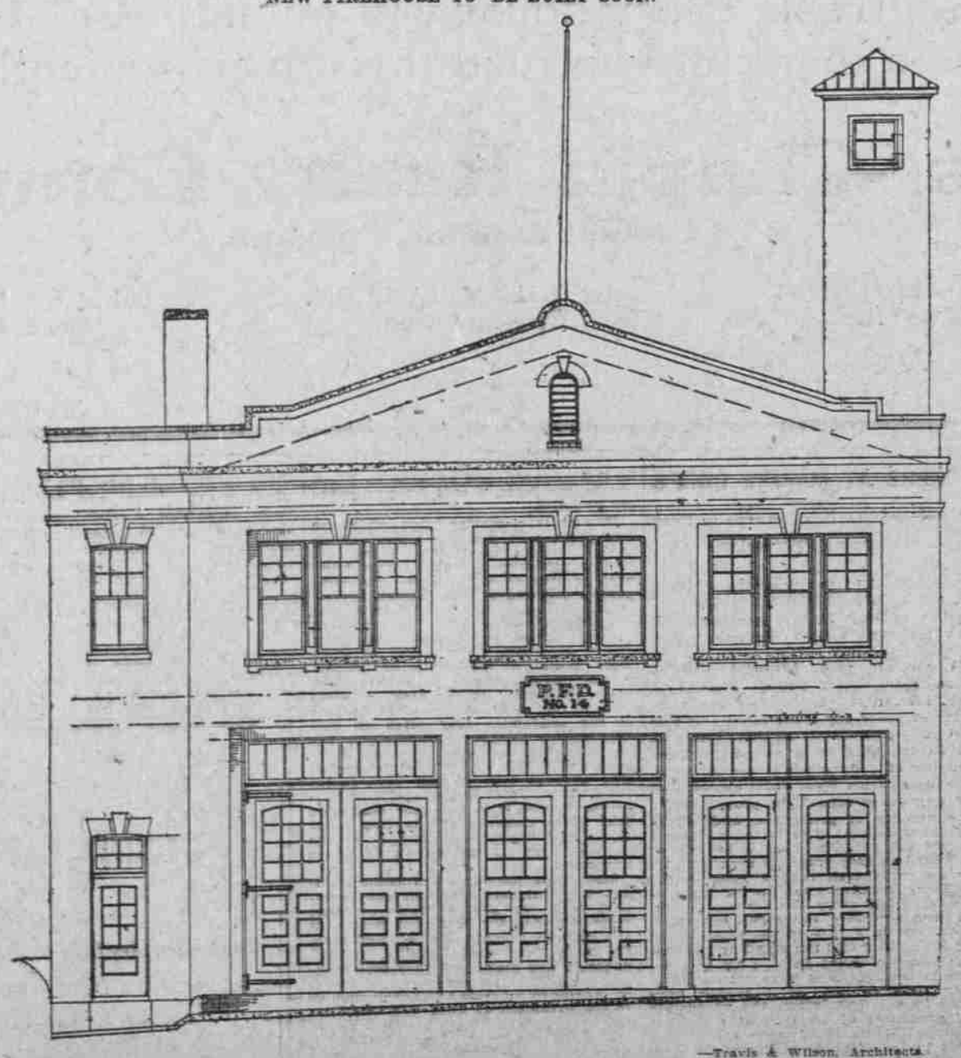

—Travis & Wilson, Architects.

FIRE DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE TO RISE AT LOWNSDALE AND MONTGOMERY STREETS.

TIGER ATTACKS TRAINER

SPECTATORS IN ANIMAL SHOW SEE AWFUL SIGHT.

Performance at Bostock's Marred by Severe and Probably Fatal Mauling of Man.

NEW YORK, July 31.—(Special.)—Mogul, a large Bengal tiger fresh from the jungle, snapped the iron chain that held him and leaped upon Henri Falkendorph, 31 years old, a lion tamer employed at Bostock's Wild Animal Show at Dreamland, Coney Island, during the performance. Falkendorph's head was ripped open by the tiger's claws, his right arm was torn and his skull was fractured.

The trainer entered the arena with seven lions and two tigers, one of them Rajah, who attacked Falkendorph last year, and the other Mogul, who was imported a few weeks ago. The latter had to be dragged in at the end of a long chain, which was then fastened to one of the bars of the cage around the arena. The large crowd of spectators saw Falkendorph turn his back upon Mogul for an instant, heard the heavy iron chain snap, and before a hand could be raised by the attendants armed with prods outside the cage Mogul had beat Falkendorph's head to the ground and was clawing the trainer's shoulder.

Instantly women screamed and attempted to run out. The band struck up a lively tune. Matthew Johnson, manager of the show, sent his attendants to quiet the throng and attempted to make a speech assuring the audience of Falkendorph's safety. Meanwhile the other animals became restive. Jack Bonavita, Thomas Cullam and Jack Martino, veteran lion tamers, entered the cage with revolvers and drove the animals into a corner and down the runway by shooting blank cartridges at them. By this time half the audience had left.

Falkendorph's fellow trainers advanced upon Mogul with their iron prods and pried his jaws loose. Then they held him in a corner while Falkendorph was taken out. The injured was taken to the Coney Island Hospital and his wounds were cauterized. He is not expected to live.

Eminent Men

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FOUR BIG HIGHWAYS ASKED

Bill to Be Sent Congress Asking Transcontinental Roads.

CHICAGO, July 31.—Four public highways from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific Coast are projected by the International League for Highway Improvement, according to John A. Stewart, president of the league, who was in Chicago Friday.

"We have prepared a bill," he said, "which will be brought up in Congress this Fall. It provides for Federal survey for the proposed roads and the appointment of a National commission on highway improvement. The commission shall cause a survey to be made of four or more east and west highways, 24 feet wide, to run from coast to coast. I have talked with President Taft, and he promises to support the project."

USE FOR RAM KATAHDIN

She Will Be Floating Mount for Armor Plate Used as Targets.

WASHINGTON, July 31.—(Special.)—The Navy Department has finally found a use for the naval ram Katahdin, which has been lying idle for many years. On the recommendation of the bureau of ordnance she will be towed from the League Island Navy Yard, where she has been out of commission, to the Potomac River, off the naval proving ground at Indian Head, Md., where she will be used as a floating mount for armor plate used as targets in ordnance experiments.

The Katahdin was built as an experiment on the suggestion of Rear Admiral Daniel Ammen, who had great faith in the prowess of a specially built vessel for use as a naval ram. She was placed in commission in 1896. Her displacement was 2155 tons and she made about 16 knots. She sits very low in the water, her freeboard measuring about six feet. The ram is of cast steel, weighing about 14 tons. The vessel is so constructed that the impact of the blow will be delivered over the whole structure. The deck projects over the hull in a knifelike edge that would cut a deep gash into any opposing vessel.

There are only two naval rams in the world. The other one is the Polhemus of the British navy, which is constructed on plans similar to those of the Katahdin. At the outbreak of the Spanish war Captain George F. F. Wilde was placed in command of the Katahdin, which was assigned to the flying squadron of the North Atlantic fleet. But she was too small and unseaworthy to maintain the pace set by the other vessels of the squadron, and she was detached from the squadron on April 16, 1898, and placed in the coast defense patrol. She served for several months in and around Cuba, and did not have an opportunity of demonstrating her supposed ability. In recent years she has been out of commission at the League Island Navy Yard.

Alaska Road Is Operating.

CORDOVA, Alaska, July 31.—The first ticket was sold and the first regular passenger train made its run yesterday on the first all-American railroad in Alaska, the Copper River & Northwestern. The passenger fare charge is 15 cents a mile. Fifty-three miles of track have been completed and placed in operation. The tracks will reach Tickel River in October. At present 4000 men are at work on the construction of the road.

High Price Paid for Mules.

KENNEWICK, Wash., July 31.—Glebisch & Joplin, of Portland, purchased 19 head of work mules Thursday of W. G. Ronald, of Seattle. The price, $6000 for the 19, was the highest ever paid for teams in this section of the country. The mules were loaded on the steamer Inland Empire this evening for shipment to Portland, where they will be used on contract work which the company has under way.

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